Stourbridge CHRONICLE

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GRITTER SERVICE NOW ON THIN ICE

Report by Richard Guttridge

THE number of gritting lorries taking to the roads in the Dudley borough this winter could be cut to save money.

Gritting services will be reviewed, with cash-strapped Dudley Council aiming to save more than £100,000 over the next three years.

Further cost-cutting measures have been revealed by the council, which needs to save £25 million by 2020.

These include closing public toilets which are underused or in a poor state of repair and dimming street lights on residential roads.

Council staff could also be forced to take five days of additional unpaid leave each year, at a time to be decided by their bosses.

This comes on top of more job losses announced at the council, which blames reduced Government funding for its cuts.

The measures are included in the council's budget proposals for the next financial year.

Bosses have also said they will consider increasing burial fees as well as hiking charges on its car parks.

As the first frosts of November hit roads this week, one of the most controversial measures proposed by the local authority is a review of its winter service provision. Bosses said major roads would continue to be gritted but they needed to ensure the service was providing value for money.

Technology

Gritting lorries and bins, which are provided to households, would be 'rationalised' under the plans which would save £105,000.

Highways boss Councillor Hilary Bills said improvements in technology meant the borough no longer needed lorries covering every inch of the borough.

She said: "People don't need to worry about the gritting service. We employ an awful lot of technology now which knows when and where we should be gritting. We don't do a blanket grit anymore. Those days are gone. The lorries know where to grit and that's where the savings will come from."

Street lights could be dimmed to 60 per cent power between 11am and 5am, a move the council says could save almost £300,000.

Finance bosses have said they need to deliver savings wherever possible in order to achieve its saving target. The latest cost-cutting measures come on top of previous announcements about the closure of the Dudley Art Gallery and Museum building, while a controversial plan to axe school crossing patrols is currently out for consultation (see page 3).

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "These are difficult times we continue to find ourselves in and we have had to look at how we deliver services to make them leaner and more efficient than ever before."

● More job losses – page 4

GADGET SHOW TOY SPECIAL GOES TO SCHOOL

Presenter Jason Bradbury, who was filming with pupils playing with Christmas toys, at Lapal Primary School, Halesowen

CHRISTMAS came early for pupils at a Halesowen school when the Gadget Show team turned up with a haul of goodies for them to try.

Youngsters from Lapal Primary School on Priory Road were filmed playing with the toys alongside presenter Jason Bradbury and his team for the Christmas special.

The show previews and reviews the latest gadgets.

Amongst a huge array of toys were Furbies, Barbie drones, Pokemon gadgets, Nerf toys and also a Skylander video game.

Joanna Turner, headteacher, said: "Jason and his team turned our school hall into a Christmas wonderland with Father Christmas himself coming to visit and bringing all the latest gadgets.

"The children, aged between six and eight, played with the latest toys so the team could get their thoughts and opinions on what's cool and what they think about them.

"It was lovely to see the children being allowed to investigate and play with some of the latest toys that are set to be some of the best presents for children this Christmas.

"The presents and team sat down and played with all the toys next to all the pupils. They loved playing with everything. It was really great to see them working out how the latest gadgets work."

The pupils favoured The Razor Crazy Cart Shift, a mini go-kart designed for younger drivers that allows children to drift and spin at safe speeds. Prices for the Razor Cart started from £220.

The Christmas episode of The Gadget Show featuring the Halesowen pupils will air on Channel 5 on December 16.

FATALITY

Motorist is killed in crash on major route

A MOTORIST was killed following a crash on a major route from the Black Country into Birmingham on Monday morning.

The man died in an accident on the Quinton Expressway in the early hours. The crash happened between junction three of the M5 and the Quinton island. No other cars were involved.

Paramedics arrived to find the car on fire and the driver could not be saved.

The A456 Quinton Expressway, which joins onto Manor Way, Halesowen, was closed until 10am as an investigation into the crash was launched.

FRAUDSTER

Warning over bogus council worker con

A WARNING has been issued after a 95-year-old was targeted by a caller pretending to be a council worker.

The fraudster tried to con the elderly resident on Grace Road, in Tipton, on Monday. The conman was male, in his 40s and he was wearing dark overalls.

Councillor Preet Gill, of Sandwell Council, said: "Council officials don't turn up without making a prior appointment. Our advice is not to open the door to people you don't know and to ask people to show ID"

DEVELOPMENT

Tycoon plans new patients' car park

A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE developer who founded Merry Hill shopping centre wants to build a low-cost public car park opposite Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Property tycoon Roy Richardson has revealed he is considering building a car park on land he owns off the A4101 High Street – opposite the hospital.

The wealthy businessman, whose family is reported to be worth £450 million, said the site would either be free or have low charges in comparison with the hospital.

The proposals could cause friction with hospital bosses, given that the car park would be in direct competition.

INSIDE

MASTERCLASS WITH SIR LENNY

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Fugitive abuser sentenced in absence

Hafiz Rahman – paedophile

A RELIGIOUS leader who went on the run after being found guilty of indecently assaulting two young girls at his mosque has been sentenced to 11-and-a-half years behind bars in his absence.

Hafiz Rahman, 58, was convicted of five charges on October 7 in his absence, claiming he was too ill to attend court. But he fled the country to Bangladesh the following day.

Police are working with officers in that country to try to track him down.

Rahman, of Ballard Road, Netherton, had been working at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath in the 1980s when the abuse took place. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how he assaulted two girls at the mosque, where they had gone for religious instruction. The victims were aged under 10 at the time.

Sentencing Rahman, Judge Nicholas Cartwright said: "There was no need to be suspicious that he would not attend his sentencing hearing so no warrant was issued for his arrest after he was convicted."

The judge said the first victim was touched in the chest area through clothes and he touched her thigh.

"He stopped when she told her mother. She has largely buried this abuse," he said.

"His other victim was abused in a more serious way.

"There is clear evidence that her ability to forge relationships has been blighted, and she finds it especially difficult to enjoy the intimacy of an adult relationship."

One of the sex offender's victims said after the sentencing: "I am pleased with the sentencing. For me, this is over now.

"I just hope the police can get him back here."

Questions over how sex offender was able to flee

A CHILDREN'S charity has questioned border controls after a Black Country mosque's Imam, who was convicted for abusing two young girls, was able to flee the country.

The NSPCC has hit out after Hafiz Rahman, of Ballard Road, Netherton, fled to Bangladesh after being convicted of five charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The 58-year-old claimed he was too ill to attend court and was convicted in his absence. The following day he flew to Bangladesh and has since been given a jail sentence in his absence (see left).

West Midlands Police said Rahman boarded a flight to Bangladesh on October 8, after officers had visited him at his home to ensure he complied with bail conditions. His name was also placed on the Police National Computer, advising officers should be alerted if he attempted to flee the UK.

An NSPCC spokesman said: "Rahman used the trust and authority he commanded as an Imam to abuse two vulnerable young girls. These girls would have gone to the mosque believing they would be safe, but instead Rahman subjected them to appalling attacks.

"Even worse, he made his victims endure the trauma of a crown court trial by denying the offences, and has now fled the country. Questions clearly need to be answered as to how and why he managed to leave the country."

A police pokesman said: "The police are not responsible for border checks so we cannot comment."

Plans for replacement care home are unveiled

PLANS for a new care home for the elderly in Kingswinford have been unveiled.

The new facility is planned next to an existing home at New Bradley Hall, which is deemed outdated and will be demolished when the new build is finished and residents move across.

It follows years of campaigning and a 5,000-name petition bid to stop New Bradley Hall's closure after Dudley Council said it could no longer afford to run it. This prompted council chiefs to overturn plans, and instead work with the Black Country Housing Group (BCHG) to find a solution.

The home and jobs were saved through a transfer deal with BCHG in February last year. The not-for-profit organisation has since worked in partnership with the council to continue to provide care for residents.

BCHG has unveiled plans to build a 66-bedroom complex to replace New Bradley Hall, which they say is no longer fit for purpose. A planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council, and BCHG will meet the costs of the new home.

The building, if approved, will have a modern design, which developers say will enable more 'person centred care' for people with dementia.

First

A council spokesman added that residents would continue to receive care within the existing home during construction, and then would transfer.

Councillor Qadar Zada, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "When we saved the home, after years of uncertainty, and transferred jobs across to Black Country Housing Group we made it very clear that the residents of the home must come first in everything that happens there.

"I am delighted that this continues to be the case with this application for a significant investment in their home and care. If planners approve this development it will help create a modern, purpose-built home, which meets residents' every need."

BCHG have consulted with residents, their families and staff on the proposals.

Amanda Tomlinson, chief executive of BCHG, said: "We want to build a new, state-of-the-art home, which is fit for the future and fully meets the care needs of current and future residents of Dudley."

Chelsea is made up over award

Award-winning make up artist Chelsea Moore, 18, wowed judges at the Midlands Fashion Awards in Birmingham

A TALENTED graduate from Dudley is made up over a top fashion award that promises to be the foundation of a successful career as a make up artist.

Chelsea Moore has been named Midlands Make Up Artist of the year at the Midlands Fashion Awards.

The awards ceremony was held at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Centre.

The 18-year-old qualified with an IMA Degree from the Central School of Make-Up in Birmingham in February and is now balancing full-time work as an administrator with self-employed make-up work.

Chelsea said: "I was looking for new opportunities and came across the awards so I put myself forward.

"We had to do makeup on a few different models that were going down the catwalk. We were marked the hygiene of our kit, the range of makeup we had, how we spoke to people and presented ourselves and the final overall look."

She added: "It's a big achievement and I'm really overwhelmed by it, I wasn't expecting it at all.

"It's going to open so many opportunities so it's made me really happy and made me believe in my own work."

Sharon Moore, Chelsea's mother, said: "I'm really proud of her, it brought me to tears. She's come a long way with her work in such a small space of time."

The finalists were judged by a panel of industry professionals.

Firm's takeover is start of a new era

A STOURBRIDGE company making extraction systems has been taken over by the Telford-based Filtermist group.

Multi Fan Systems, based at Wassell Grove Business Centre, has made ventilation and extraction systems for the likes of the University of Birmingham and Ricoh Products. Multi Fan Systems managing director David Fall will be retiring from the business, while fellow sales director Kevin Hood and contracts director Richard Field will continue to oversee Multi Fan contracts alongside the existing team of employees.

Mr Hood said: "The agreement with Filtermist marks the start of a new chapter for Multi Fan Systems. We are confident that this new agreement will benefit both our employees and our customers."

Anastacia has a Brum concert date

AMERICAN singer Anastacia has announced a tour next year including a concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on May 28.

The Left Outside Alone singer was recently voted off BBC TV's Strictly Come Dancing.

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Children in harmony on BBC charity appeal night

THE BBC Children in Need's appeal show next Friday will see the return of the UK-wide Children's Choir, which will include Dudley and Sandwell schoolchildren singing at the Black Country Living Museum.

The BBC Children in Need Appeal on November 18 will see Graham Norton, Tess Daly, Greg James, Ade Adepitan, Rochelle Humes and Marvin Humes host the TV extravaganza.

They will be joined by around 1,500 singing children from across the UK for a live performance of Lean on Me by Bill Withers.

This will be the sixth year that the Children's Choir has performed. Last year the choir sang Miley Cyrus' The Climb and in previous years they've sung Simon and Garfunkel's Bridge Over Troubled Water, as well as the Pretenders power ballad I'll Stand By You.

One of the filming locations is the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road. That's where more than 180 children will perform. The pupils are from the following schools: in the choir made up of children from Jessons Primary, Tipton Green Junior, Kings Heath Primary, Mansfield Green Primary, Niksham School, Tiverton School, Water Mill School, Westminster Primary School.

All the schools have started their rehearsals ready for their live performance during the appeal show.

BBC Children in Need currently funds 137 projects across the West Midlands with funding of more than £7.2 million in the region.

Work on detail of Hippodrome deal

CAMPAIGNERS behind a rescue deal for Dudley Hippodrome have said they are taking time to finalise the agreement to make sure it is 'absolutely right'.

There has been a delay in handing over the keys to the famous building to the Black Country Hippodrome group but members say they are just waiting for some final points to be resolved with Dudley Council. Group chairman Paul Collins said: "We are taking all this time and care to get the lease right to ensure that we have the theatre on terms that will allow us to commission the reports and raise the funds needed to restore it."

The group needs to raise £5 million to refurbish the building to become a venue again.

Homes proposed for haulage site

SEVEN homes are proposed to be built on the former site of a Halesowen haulage firm. An application for the homes at Narrow Lane, on land previously occupied by W Merris and Son, has been submitted to planners.

We shall remember them at services

Wreaths being laid in the Black Country

BRITAIN will fall silent once again at 11am on November 11 in honour of servicemen and women who gave their lives for their country during two world wars and other conflicts.

Royal British Legions have been preparing for the services and people will be invited to gather in town centres and around cenotaphs to pay tribute.

Events will take place on Remembrance Day on Friday, November 11 as well as on Sunday, November 13. People can observe the silence and attend cenotaphs on the 11th day of the 11th month, while parades and longer services will be held two days later.

Dudley events include:

Priory Street, Dudley, November 11 – Veterans join council staff, councillors and residents at the Clock Tower in Priory Streetfrom 11am, includes the laying of wreaths and a two minute silence.

Ednam Road, Dudley, November 13 – A service at the cenotaph in Ednam Road at 10.40am. A parade will pass from Vicar Street at 10.30am, along High Street, Stone Street, Priory Street, Priory Road to the cenotaph.

St James' Church, Gornal, November 13 – A parade and band will leave Gornal British Legion on Ruiton Street at 10.55am to the memorial hall by St James' Church.

St Peter's Church, Cradley, November 13 – A parade will leave Cradley Community Centre in Colley Lane at 1.15pm for the Cenotaph at St Peter's Church.

Also, in Sandwell, Powke Lane Cemetery, Rowley Regis, November 13 – Mayor Julie Webb will attend. The parade starts at 10.25am from Highgate Street car park, Old Hill.

Council not responsible for pupils' road safety

COUNCIL bosses say they are consulting with schools across Dudley borough on the future of lollipop wardens.

The move comes in Dudley as a petition to keep them continues to gather support.

The service is currently funded by Dudley Council but is set to get its funding axed because the council claim they can no longer afford to pay for it.

The council blamed budget cuts imposed upon them by a reduction in Government funding.

The council has no legal duty to fund the crossing patrols and suggests that schools could fund them instead.

But more than 490 people have signed a petition to try to save the patrols and many claims schools do not have enough money to pay for them.

However, the council argues that the consultation will give schools a greater say in how they want the service to run.

Under proposals, which sees the council aiming to save £395,000, schools would fund the patrols which serve their pupils and the council would maintain the operation of the service.

But of the 123 schools invited to participate in the consultation as part of the review, as of last week only 23 had responded. The consultation closes this week.

Defended

Councillor Hilary Bills, the council's cabinet member for environmental services, has defended the authority's move.

"The decision to review the school crossing patrol service has not been taken lightly," she said.

"With national government continuing to reduce funding, it is inevitable that there will be an impact on how this and other key services can be delivered in the future.

"I know there have been some concerns raised by schools and parents but ultimately I would remind people that it is a parent's or guardian's responsibility to ensure children arrive at school safely. The council does not have a statutory duty to provide the service.

"As a responsible authority we will always take the safety of children very seriously. We have invested heavily in safer routes to schools which include fixed pedestrian crossing points with other measures. Drivers have a responsibility to take extra care at these locations."

Sir Lenny shares acting skills

Sir Lenny Henry working with pupils at Shenley Academy in Northfield, Birmingham, on their drama skills

BLACK Country comedy legend Sir Lenny Henry dropped into a secondary school to inspire the next generation of performers.

The Dudley-born actor and comic took part in a Q&A session with pupils in Birmingham. He led students in a re-enactment of the dance from Michael Jackson's Thriller, before giving a speech about Othello and his love for Shakespeare.

Sir Lenny discussed his first theatre trip to Birmingham with his family. The Comic Relief co-founder said: "My mum was very hard-working and once a year she took us to watch a panto – the first one I saw was at the Alexandra in Birmingham."

Generation

He told the audience of youngsters at Shenley Academy that the current generation have access to more opportunities to get involved with the arts at a young age – and urged them to take advantage. He added: "I think the best art is probably the art you make yourself – learning how to make up your own plays, learning how to improvise and do something you can be proud of."

Sir Lenny was launching a National Theatre project to broadcast live productions from the London theatre for school audiences.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Road is one-way over two weeks

A BUSY Black Country commuter route will be one-way for nearly two weeks.

Dudley Road will be one-way on weekdays from today (Thursday) to November 23.

Diversions will be in place via Sedgley Road West, Sedgley Road and Birmingham New Road.

Roadworks have had an impact on the area since summer.

Work on the Birmingham New Road, at its junction with Shaw Road, began in August and is due to last until next spring.

Advice day for potential authors

ASPIRING writers can get advice and guidance at an event at Dudley Library later this month.

Dudley Library will be hosting a questions and answers session with a panel of published authors and poets on Saturday, November 26.

They will be talking about the writing process and answering questions on working with publishers and agents from 10.30am until 1pm.

To book your free ticket call (01384) 815560, email libraries@dudley.gov.uk or enquire at the library in St James's Road.

Historian leaves no stone unturned

THE Black Country Society are hosting a lecture which looks at burial places of the famous and infamous.

The lecture, 'Leave No Stone Unturned', will take place at the Black Country Living Museum.

Travelling from East Anglia will be historian John Vigar, a successful author, broadcaster and popular tour guide with over 40 years of experience.

The lecture takes place on Wednesday November 23 with tickets priced at £2.

Bishop's third date as tickets snapped up

LIVERPUDLIAN comedian John Bishop has added a third Birmingham arena date to his Winging It tour next year.

He had already announced shows at the Barclaycard Arena on November 10 and 11.

He will now also be appearing there on November 12. Tickets range from £28.93 to £45.24.

His tour also due to visit Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 7 next year.

Run for the Legion

A RUNNING club will take part in a poppy run in support of The Royal British Legion.

Sedgley Striders will set of from The Three Crowns pub, on Dovedale Road, in the Ettingshall Park area of Wolverhampton, tonight (Thursday) at 7pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

OUR changing language. I've lost count this week of the number of times radio and TV commentators have told us that the gap between Clinton and Trump is "tightening." A spanner tightens; gaps narrow.

THE Marmite controversy rumbles on. A reader asks why a fall in the pound should affect the price of a spread made from by-products of the British brewing industry. He says: "I reckon somebody is extracting the yeast."

ONLY a few years ago, we were assured that eating eggs caused high cholesterol and clogged your arteries. Then we were told the theory was nonsense. And this week we are told that a review of 300,000 patients suggests an egg a day keeps strokes at bay. A moment's silence, please, for those who put their faith in the experts, stopped eating eggs and died of strokes.

DO you detect the sickly whiff of hypocrisy? Home Secretary Amber Rudd rules out a full inquiry into the 1984 Battle of Orgreave and some Labour politicians cry shame. Yet Labour was in power for 13 years. They had plenty of time to hold an inquiry. So why didn't they?

WE may not need a full-blown, lawyer-fest inquiry but Orgreave should be remembered and re-examined, if only to separate fact from propaganda. For a start, Orgreave was not a popular, class-war uprising against the despised Margaret Thatcher that dozens of Leftie websites suggest.

Thatcher was actually very popular in the 1980s. The year before Orgreave she led the Tories to a landslide election victory with a huge majority of 144 seats. Three years after Orgreave she won her third general election with another massive majority. Although many Brits had sympathy for the miners, there were bitter memories of the Three Day Week caused by the miners' strike of 1974. On the day itself, before the police perjury and evidence-tampering began, most folk supported the force's action. Victory for the police in the Battle of Orgreave may have been ugly but defeat was unthinkable.

CONTINUING the recent theme of inflation, a reader on a pension calculates that, in order to buy the house he has occupied for 49 years today, he would have to be a first-time buyer earning £60,000 a year.

MORE to the point, he says, when he first paid to watch Wolves over 60 years ago, his hobby consumed about one-fiftieth of his salary. To get similar value in the Premier League today he would need to earn £90,000. He asks: "Has the football improved that much?" Discuss.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Dishonest twins given second chance

TWINS found with stolen goods in Stourbridge have avoided being locked up because of their age.

Police found thousands of pounds worth of stolen property when they swooped on the home of Ramarr and Ramone Treleven, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The goods had been taken during a series of burglaries close to their address in Baylie Court, Green Road, Stourbridge, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The haul, valued at more than £4,000, included jewellery, electrical equipment, mobile phones, bicycles and games consoles stolen between July 8 and September 16.

A leather wallet found during a search of the 20-year-olds' home was linked to one of the burglaries.

There was no proof that the brothers were responsible for the burglaries but both admitted six charges of handling stolen property.

Mr Jon Roe, defending, said: "The property had been bought by them over the internet or in face to face meetings. They knew it had not been legitimately obtained."

Judge James Burbidge QC told the brothers: "Because you are young, pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and have served a few weeks in custody while waiting for the case to be settled, I will suspend the sentence. I am giving you a chance to avoid a life of crime. If you do not take it, I will be the judge who sends you to prison."

They were each given an eight month period of detention, suspended for two years and ordered to do 100 hours unpaid work.

Merry Hill bosses plan a £100m revamp of malls

Report by Simon Penfold

MERRY Hill is about to undergo the biggest transformation since it was built more than 25 years ago, as owners intu plan to spend around £100 million over the next five years.

Work on remodelling the shopping centre's bus station starts in January and talks have taken place with potential tenants for the vacant BHS store at the centre.

Matthew Roberts, chief financial officer at intu and the man in charge of its 17 shopping centres across the UK, said: "The pace of change here is accelerating. We bought Merry Hill because we think it provides a great opportunity. I would hope this can be one of our best performing assets in the next five to 10 years, if not the best."

Intu bought half of Merry Hill from Westfield for £407.7m in 2014 and purchased the other half from Australian investment group QIC for £410m this summer. It also owns part of the surrounding retail park and a section of the neighbouring Waterfront office complex.

Mr Roberts said intu was looking to bring a new car showroom to the retail park, while there would also be refurbishment work at the Waterfront. But he predicted most of the £100m would be spent within the shopping centre itself.

Restaurants

"We have done some of the basics, given it a lick of paint and installed some new escalators near the Asda supermarket," said Mr Roberts. There would also be work on improving the look of the centre's entrances.

Bringing in new restaurants was also a key focus, he said, as Merry Hill becomes more of a leisure destination for families.

Across intu's 17 UK shopping centres around 13 per cent of space was given over to leisure, particularly restaurants.

"Here at intu Merry Hill it is about half that," said Mr Roberts, who said the store space left vacant by the collapse of BHS is currently the subject of talks with potential tenants.

Sainsbury's has revealed it will quit following Christmas, after 27 years at the centre.

"We are sad to see Sainsbury's go," said Mr Roberts, but the space would be "attractive to a number of other retailers".

He said store chains wanted bigger 'flagship' units, like the new Top Shop and Top Man shop at the centre.

Meanwhile, an outdoor play area at Merry Hill has closed to make way for more parking spaces.

The Quest entertainment zone has been asked to hand back the area by the centre's owners.

Man with a plan – intu chief financial officer Matthew Roberts at the Merry Hill shopping centre

Planners back 200 homes scheme

A MAJOR housing and retail development has moved a step closer after an outline planning application was recommended for approval.

Up to 200 homes, retail facilities, a gym and restaurants would be created under ambitious plans for a former brickyard in Kingswinford.

The proposals on the vacant site of Ibstock Brick Ltd, off Stalling's Lane, are described as a 'landmark development' in the application submitted to Dudley Council.

In addition to the construction of up to 200 homes, the masterplan sets out a vision for 7,205 sq m of retail space, 700 sq m for gym and leisure facilities, and a family pub or restaurant spanning 590 sq m. The application for the development, called 'Tansey Green', has been made by Ibstock Brick and Hawkins, on the site which was formerly used for clay extraction and brick manufacturing.

Outline plans were due to be discussed by councillors this week. They have been advised to approve the application by planning officers, who have said they do not believe the creation of the access road would impact on highway safety.

The scale and layout of the development will be discussed at a later stage.

More job losses and service cuts at council

MORE than 100 jobs will go at Dudley Council during the next financial year – but the council tax will still rise by nearly four per cent, it has been announced.

A total of 110 roles will be axed at the cash-strapped council, bosses said as they revealed their budget proposals for the 2016/17 financial year.

It means that the jobs cull will continue at the authority, which has already axed around 150 staff over the last two years. Another 60 posts are due to go by 2020.

Chiefs have also revealed that they are proposing to increase the council tax by 3.99 per cent, the maximum rise allowed without triggering a local referendum.

The move is expected to bring in £4 million for the council, which must at the same time save £25m over the next three years.

This will mean a wave of cuts and increased charges with parking fees set to rise across council-run car parks, burial fees likely to rise and the council to halt its funding for school crossing patrol wardens.

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe said: "These are difficult times we continue to find ourselves in and we have had to look at how we deliver services to make them leaner and more efficient than ever before.

"Many of the savings in the budget report are based on transforming the way we do business to try to protect jobs and essential frontline services wherever possible."

Blaze at wooden former youth club

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a blaze at a former youth club building.

Crews were called to the fire in a foyer of the wooden building located in High Holborn, Sedgley.

The fire was spotted at around 9.40pm last Wednesday (November 2).

Fire crews from Dudley attended and dealt with the blaze using breathing apparatus and a hose reel.

A spokesperson for West Midlands Fire Service said a 'stop message' was sent through by 11.20pm.

The cause of the blaze is still being investigated.

The spokesperson added: "The fire was in a youth club's timber building.

"There was a small fire in the foyer and we are still investigating the cause."

Theatre group prepare Last Tango in Tipton

THE Tipton-based Black Country Theatre is presenting its latest comedy production this weekend

The Last Tango in Tipton is being staged in the theatre at The Comedian pub in New Road, Tipton, on Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm, tickets £5.

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Blueprint for expansion of Black Country museum site

A MASTERPLAN for the future of the Black Country Living Museum, to include a new visitor centre and extension of the tram line, has been backed by business bosses.

The expansion project, creating 90 jobs, has been given the thumbs up by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which has pledged to support its £10 million funding push.

Details of the ambitious development, which could include moving the site's entrance from Tipton Road to Castle Hill, were revealed earlier this year. The museum requires £10m in funding from the Heritage Lottery and the LEP has indicated it is ready to back the scheme.

A proposed letter of support for the development, which is due to be backed by members, said: "The project will offer significant economic benefits in terms of employment creation in its own right as well as having the ability to draw 200,000 additional visitors per year to the existing Castle Hill attractions."

A new visitor centre, exhibition space, and retail and café facilities would be created. The museum's tram line would also be extended to provide a circular route, looping around the attraction in a figure of eight.

A new industrial quarter and a 1940s to 60s town could also be added. Offices would be created and a total of 60 workers would be taken on with 29 apprentices.

A funding bid to Heritage Lottery is being prepared.

MP's careers fair for young people

BUSINESS minister and Stourbridge MP Margot James is hosting another Aspirations Event tomorrow (Friday) in her constituency.

The Conservative MP will present a careers eveht on at the Glasshouse College, in Amblecote, from 4.30pm for two hours.

The event forms part of the MP's Raising Aspirations programme, which includes a series of workshops, seminars and networking fairs for young people. Students will be able to meet representatives from a number of businesses and organisations.

The MP said: "Whether going to university, becoming an apprentice or training for a job, I want every young person in Stourbridge to fulfil their potential."

Academy status bid at primary

A PRIMARY school has launched a bid to become an academy.

Hob Green Primary School in Stourbridge has applied for academy status, which would see it move away from local authority control.

New weekly market switches to Saturday

A NEW weekly market will launch in Stourbridge town centre after the plans were backed by councillors.

The food and craft market will be held each Saturday on Lower High Street and Coventry Street.

LSD Promotions initially wanted to hold a market on Thursdays in High Street and Market Street, closing off the roads off to traffic.

But the company was forced to rethink the proposals following opposition from traders who were concerned about the impact shutting two main streets to traffic would have on businesses.

The company went back to the drawing board and came up with new plans to move the market it already holds twice a month in the town to the pedestrianised Lower High Street and Coventry Street, and to make it a weekly event each Saturday.

Professional

Dudley Council's licensing committee gave the revised plans the go-ahead last week.

Boost

Committee member Councillor Michael Evans said he believed the market would be a boost for Stourbridge.

He said: "We felt it would be very good for the town. They are a very professional company and came across quite strong."

Original plans for the Thursday market were unveiled last year.

LSD wanted to have stalls lining High Street and Market Street in a bid to attract more shoppers to the town and offer something different but the chamber of trade voiced some concerns.

Speaking following the changes to the original plans, Dermot McGillicuddy, from LSD Promotions, said: "The traders were not opposed to the market but they didn't want High Street closed.

"If we are up by the clock we won't have to close the road.

"We believe to have a Thursday market we would have had to close the road. We want to get the Saturday market running then maybe we can look again at the Thursday market and discuss it again."

Robbers who brandished fake gun are locked up

A GROUP of thieves who used an imitation firearm to target four shops in one evening have been put behind bars.

Lee Cartwright, 25, from Brompton Road, Brierley Hill, Wesley Bristow, 27, from Church Road, Stourbridge, and a teenager who cannot be named for legal reasons, attempted to steal from four shops in the Brierley Hill area on the evening of September 27 last year.

They only managed to get away with cigarettes and cigarette papers from one of the shops.

The group targeted three off-licences and a fish and chip shop but were only successful in stealing from one of the off-licences, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Prosecuting, Graeme Molloy, said: "Across roughly two and a half hours they attempted to rob four shops at gunpoint.

"At the Premier Off Licence in Stourbridge, two of the group entered the shop and threatened the member of staff working at the time, who tried to defend himself by grabbing a glass bottle. As he did this, another bottle fell from a shelf and smashed, startling the pair and forcing them to leave.

Spree

"At the Wine Cabinet in Quarry Bank, they asked a member of staff to give them money, but the alarm was raised , they ran out of the premises.

"At Kingsway Stores in Stourbridge, they got away with an amount of cigarettes and cigarette papers.

"Their final stop was at the Rock Fryer in Brierley Hill, a fish and chip shop where again they asked a member of staff to hand over money. When one of the group attempted to grab the till, they became involved in an altercation with the manager, before running out of the shop."

Police later found the Peugeot car, used to travel between shops, containing the cigarettes and papers.

The three were jointly charged with three counts of attempted robbery, one count of robbery and four counts of possessing an imitation firearm when committing an offence.

Each pleaded guilty, with Cartwright given a six year sentence, Bristow jailed for six years and four months and the teenager given a four years and six month sentence.

Charley's locks lopped for charity

Charley Mantle with Liam Taylor, from Toni & Guy's in Wolverhampton, after her hair-raising challenge

IT was a case of hair today and gone tomorrow for Charley Mantle, who works at the Cradley Heath High Street branch of building society the West Brom.

Charley had her long locks chopped off in the name of charity. The 23-year-old from Kingswinford raised £500 for Teenage Cancer Trust, helping the West Brom break through the £20,000 barrier in just six months of supporting its nominated charity.

Charley also donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which provides wigs and hair pieces for children suffering from cancer.

She said: "I really wanted to do something for charity and the two organisations which benefitted are brilliant causes. It was the first time I've had my hair cut in a good number of years and around 15 inches came off and was donated to Little Princess Trust.

"I was pretty nervous having so much cut off but, at the same time, it was exciting to be involved."

Charley's charity cut took place at Toni & Guy's, in Victoria Street, Wolverhampton.

Charley added: "The guys there were fantastic. They did the cut for free to ensure we could raise as much as possible for Teenage Cancer Trust and I'm very grateful for that."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mayor gets boots ready for match

THE Mayor of Dudley will be kicking off a charity football match later this month involving Wolves All-Stars.

Dudley Town FC will take on ex-Wolves players in aid of the mayor's charities on November 27.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif will don his football boots and join in the action from 2.30pm at The Dell Stadium in Bryce Road, Brierley Hill.

Tickets (£5 for adults, £3 concessions and free for under-10s) are from Steve Edwards on 07858 876649, from The Black Country T-Shirt Shop in Dudley and Pure Gym in Brierley Hill.

MP hosted Scout trip to Parliament

YOUNG people and volunteers from the Beacon Explorer Scout Unit visited Parliament for a tour organised by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

The group had a guided trip around the Palace of Westminster, including the chance to look inside the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The Labour MP has backed the work of local Scout groups. Mr Austin said: "I was a Cub Scout myself in Dudley, and I know from experience that the Scouts help young people to develop much-needed life skills."

Access group is organising fair

THE Access in Dudley group is holding a Christmas craft fair later this month.

The event is being staged in the DY1 community building in Stafford Street on Saturday November 19 from 11am to 4pm.

Access in Dudley, formed in April 2004, helps disabled people across the borough.

It undertakes access audits of both inside and outside of buildings and leisure venues.

Dahl's Witches take to arts centre stage

DUDLEY Little Theatre's next production is a stage version of Roald Dahl's creepy tale The Witches.

The play is being staged in Netherton Arts Centre in Northfield Road from December 8 to 11.

The family show starts at 7.30pm each day with matinees at 2.30pm on the Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are £8 available on 01384 872583 or visit www.dudleylittlethearetre.org website.

Talk on Wilde times

RACONTEUR, historian and jazz musician John Sparry will be giving a talk at the Birmingham and Midland Institute about Oscar Wilde in Stourbridge and Mrs Crippin in Dudley.

The hour-long talk is at 1pm tomorrow (Friday), costing £5 at the venue in Margaret Street. No need to book.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Inmates are leading us all a right merry dance

ALL does not seem to be well in HM Prison Service at the moment. First of all, we have had the riot at Bedfordshire jail, where two inmates were taken to hospital and the warders retreated to a "safe space" while the lags turned the place upside down, filming the jollity on mobile phones while they were at it.

Then, over at Pentonville nick, two inmates, including a would-be murderer, successfully made a dash for freedom after stuffing their pillows under the bedclothes to make the officers think they were asleep

Still, nice to see those good old progressive bods at the Ministry of Justice have got a plan to bring order to the chaos. They are going to spend £8.4 million giving every jailbird a flat-screen telly, presumably in the belief that the miscreants would all become model citizens if only they were allowed to watch Ed Balls prance about on Strictly Come Dancing in high definition.

Not only that, thousands is being spent on new gym equipment, which will presumably get the lags in shape for the next time they fancy a dust-up on B-wing, or a to do a moonlight flit when they get a file in their birthday cake. One jail has even spent £30,000 employing a hairdresser. How can it cost 30 grand to give a few old lags a grade two back and sides?

This next question is probably naive in the extreme, and explains why people like me never get anywhere near the justice system, but I'm going to ask it anyway. Wouldn't it be better value to spend £8.4 million on a few extra prison officers to give the inmates under control?

❒ ❒ ❒

STAYING with the justice system, former attorney general Dominic Grieve has launched a blistering attack on the tabloid press over its coverage of last week's High Court ruling that could derail Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

Mr Grieve accused some newspapers of demonstrating 'fascist' behaviour, and compared their conduct with Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

He does protest too much, me thinks. After all, I would have thought a panel of judges over-ruling the result of a democratic vote to frustrate the will of voters would be right up Comrade Mugabe's street.

❒ ❒ ❒

I WON'T pretend I understand the first thing about the latest cyber attack on Tesco bank, which has cleared out several customers' accounts.

But it does highlight once more just how vulnerable the internet is to fraudsters. And no matter what incentives the banks come up with, nothing convince me to take up internet banking.

Geoff McMillan – puzzled by missing name

New Zealand Defence Adviser Evan Williams with David Braithwaite at the ceremony

Jack Braithwaite – 'simple peacemaking'

Shot at Dawn soldiers are now on memorial

Killed for mutiny, their stories were lost to history before one man's selfless quest to reveal them. **CLARE BUTLER** reports

SOLDIERS shot dead for refusing to obey their own commanding officers have been commemorated 100 years on.

Jack Braithwaite of the New Zealand Otago Regiment, and William Lewis from Scotland were executed on October 29, 1916 while Jesse Robert Short, of Newcastle upon Tyne, was killed a year later.

Their names are inscribed on individual plaques attached to individual wooden stakes as part of the Shot at Dawn memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

The three mutineers join 306 other men remembered in the memorial for alleged desertion or cowardice during the Great War.

Relatives and representatives of each of the men attended the special ceremony on Saturday from as far as New Zealand.

Jack Braithwaite's nephew, David Braithwaite, from New Zealand, aged 79, was one of them. He said: "My uncle was executed exactly 100 years ago today. It gives closure for our family. We have had some challenges over the past 20 years in trying to get recognised what we thought was wrong.

"My father was the youngest of a family of 24 children. He never told me or our family anything about Jack's demise and those were the days when mutiny was a scandal. I found out in the mid-1980s and slowly with the help of a lot of historians we thought that we should explore the pardons which we achieved in 2000 in New Zealand and 2006 in Britain. The whole ceremony was very appropriate."

Jack Braithwaite had lost his stripe in May 1916 for being absent without leave.

But this was followed by three courts-martials in June and July 1916 for acts such as stating a falsehood to an officer, being absent without leave and two charges of escaping confinement and escaping while being escorted to a field punishment compound. Prison sentences with hard labour followed.

Families of the soldiers who were shot attend the service to commemorate their lives

On August 28, 1916, an Australian soldier known as Private Little complained the hot water had run out in the showers at Blargies. As the matter escalated, Little yelled for his meal. Braithwaite, on mess orderly duties, took Little to his tent and gave him a meal.

His mistake was to take Little from the custody of a Staff Sergeant Shearing. Braithwaite was charged with mutiny along with others.

In his letter to the General Field Court-Martial, Jack would comment how in Egypt similar actions had been punished with seven or 14 days in prison or seven days' loss of pay and that he did not understand 'that a simple act of peacemaking could be brought to look like deliberate mutiny'. He was shot at 6.05am on October 29, 1916 – five minutes after Gunner Lewis, whose story remains more of a mystery.

Jesse Robert Short, from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, was executed in 1917. On September 11 of that year, Corporal Short was at the base camp at Etaples, France, where – having recovered either from wounds or illness – he was undergoing re-training before being returned to the frontline.

Disturbances broke out in the camp that day, and one group of 80 soldiers carrying placards and armed with sticks marched on a bridge across the river Canache.

Cpl Short tried to persuade the soldiers to lay down their arms, and referring to its commander, said: "Don't listen to that officer, that b****r ought to have a rope tied round his neck with a stone on it and be chucked into the river."

Cpl Short was courtd-martialled the next day, found guilty of inciting mutiny and sentenced to death. He was executed weeks later. All three soldiers were subsequently pardoned.

Among the guests who attended the service were relatives of the soldiers – Bryan Ritchie and his wife, Marilyn, from Edinburgh on William Lewis's behalf; Jack Braithwaite's nephew, David Braithwaite, from New Zealand, and his wife, Rae; and Jesse Robert Short's grandson, Neil Graham, among others along with other family members.

Mr Ritchie, from near Edinburgh, said: "I was there to represent my great-uncle who was shot at dawn 100 years ago today. I don't even know if my mum knows that her uncle existed. To think 100 years ago today my great-uncle stood in front of a firing squad and was shot at the age of 30. I've got mixed emotions. It's someone I didn't know but I'm here to represent my family. I thought the ceremony was very poignant."

During the 1914-18 war, 346 British and Commonwealth soldiers were executed – a higher figure than those recorded by both the French and Germans. The memorial's plaques are arranged in the form of a Greek theatre around the statue of Private Herbert Burden, of the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, who was shot at Ypres in 1915.

Visited

The non-inclusion of mutineers' names and the absence in particular of Jack Braithwaite's name was highlighted by Western Front Association New Zealand member Geoff McMillan following a visit to the Arboretum in 2015.

Mr McMillan explained how he was puzzled to find Jack Braithwaite's name missing upon his visit last year and so set out on pursuit of its inclusion. He said: "When I visited the Arboretum, I was moved to see how the names of hundreds of soldiers executed for desertion or cowardice in the First World War were recorded in the Shot at Dawn memorial, but puzzled that the name of fellow Kiwi Jack Braithwaite was missing."

When he did some research, he discovered the other two missing names.

Richard Pursehouse and Lee Dent, of the Chase Project – a military history research group – assisted with the research and got in touch with the Shot at Dawn memorial artist, Andy DeComyn, who was keen to help.

The memorial was created by Mr DeComyn in 2000 as a gift to the relatives, and was unveiled by Gertrude Harris, daughter of Private Harry Farr, in June 2001.

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Think about it before you criticise elders

HARDLY a week goes by without some reference to the problems caused by the 'baby boomers' taking valuable facilities. This is not just upsetting and unfair but inaccurate.

Ask yourselves, do older people fill our schools until there are not enough places for everyone? No, of course not. Do they seek to take all the jobs? No, they have done their share.

Do they demand social housing to accommodate the kids they had without thinking where they would put them? No they left school at 15 and started work straight away, saved for about 10 years for a deposit and bought their own.

Do they expect benefits to feed them and pay for mobile phones, etc? No, they paid national insurance all their working lives (about 50 years) in the misguided belief that the money was going to fund a decent pension.

Even the hospitals, when I have visited one, the A&E department is often as full of children as old folks. It's not their fault, it is because GPs are so hard to get to see that worried parents end up in A&E because it is where everyone gets looked at eventually.

Finally the prisons, I have no idea what the average age of the inmates in our overcrowded prisons is, but I would bet it is not 65 plus.

So I say to the media, especially television, think before the term ageing population is used because as far as I know there is no thought being given to what is to happen to all the babies forming the present population explosion, many of whom will never experience work because technology has removed most of it.

RON GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

London will always get the money

WILL there ever be airport expansion?

I've no idea where airports should be expanded and I've the greatest empathy for people who as is also the case with HS2, will have their lives disrupted but please, please if it's going to happen, build one somewhere.

If HS2 will mean that London will be just a whisper away from the Midlands, perhaps Brum Airport should be expanded, linked to the HS2 white elephant and all problems down south overcome?

This would never happen. As with the famous 'Northern Power House' and the 'Greater Brum' project, Westminster politicians can talk the talk but when they are asked to walk the walk, these schemes are always low down the list and London always gets the investment.

That's the way it is folks. The way it will always be.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

Bostin' busking for Action Heart charity

OCTOBER 22 saw a group of performers from John Langford's Maverick acoustic night come to the Cosy Café in Churchill precinct in Dudley. Under the banner of the Omma n Chain Show and Black Country Radio with John's help and the support of Paul and all his staff at the café we held a Buskin' For Local Charity day.

On this occasion we decided to support Action Heart Dudley. We all have family members or friends who for one reason or another have heart surgery or related treatment. Action Heart play such an important role in getting individuals back on their feet. John was in fact part of the team that worked on the original concept for the incredible unit at Russells Hall so it was great to use the day to support a movement close to his own heart. I can only thank all the performers, young and old who gave up their time.

A special thanks to James Toft from one of my favourite bands Missing Link for handling the sound all day and to John for using his social media influence to get all the folks on site. Most of all thanks to the people who sat and listened and filled our collection box with their generous donation. The day raised £122.48.

BRIAN DAKIN (BILLY SPAKE MON)
Tividale

Ballet was more like a pantomime

UNFORTUNATELY I missed Leon Burakowski's review of The Tempest ballet however, I did read the letter from Jackie Adams in last week's paper defending the ballet production.

Considering I could not wait to leave at the first interval I think he hit the nail on the head, as my head was thumping from the discordant and physically painful score!

I have been a fan of both traditional and modern ballet and was so looking forward to this new production.

It was more like a pantomime and don't think it will become a classic.

Bless Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, etc, who compose beautiful music to listen too even without their wonderful ballets.

Leon, other members of the audience were leaving in front of me. So you weren't on your own in your opinion!

NATALIE SHERWOOD
Stourbridge

Private Harris's prayer book with a bullet hole in it

Going over the top – A picture from the trenches during the Battle of the Somme

The family still care for Private Harris's medals for his war service

Edwin Harris photographed in the 1930s, a decade he would not have seen had it not been for the prayer book

How the power of prayer saved a soldier's life

MEMORY LANE

By Luke Bartlett

A BLACK Country man survived being shot by a sniper during the Battle of the Somme – because of a small prayer book in his pocket.

It was September 1916 when Private Edwin Harris from Darlaston stormed German lines with the South Staffordshire Regiment.

After three or four weeks living in muddy, rat-infested conditions near Thiepval, his unit were sent 'over the top' and as they advanced towards the German lines, Private Harris was hit by sniper fire.

A bullet pierced his groin and exited just underneath his ribcage – but the prayer book took some of the potentially deadly momentum out of the projectile.

His colleagues carried him to safety on a stretcher while dodging gunfire.

The story has been told for the first time by Private Harris's son Ray. He remembers being sat down at the age of 10 by his father who wanted to explain the war wounds on his body.

Ray, who is now 87, said: "Their Sergeant called for them to keep down because there was a German sniper. The sniper had already shot several men. Apparently my dad didn't keep down enough and he was hit.

Pocket

"The bullet went straight through the book in his pocket and then into his groin. Dad heard one of them say 'Good God it's gone right through him'."

Ray, who lives in Kingswinford, explained: "They had to lift him up above the top of the trench and carry him like that. There were places the men couldn't get the stretcher around the corners. He was conscious during all of it. He said there were bullets flying about him."

After the ordeal, all of Private Harris's possessions were sent back to his parents while he recovered. Included was the prayer book that saved his life, a bullet-hole torn right through its core.

"It's only a little red book, about half an inch thick. It was given to me by his father – my grandfather," said Ray. "The book is still something I look at occasionally. It's stored away in a leather case.

"It's just something that means an awful lot to me."

Lucky enough to make it home, Edwin found himself battling the scars of war – both physical and mental.

"Dad did suffer from the wound for a long time afterwards," Ray said. "As the years went on I think he might have suffered something they call Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In those days it was different, they just had to get on with it.

"He ended up as an insurance agent. He was a very ordinary man but it was an extraordinary experience that he went through."

Ray Harris, of Kingswinford, hold the prayer book that saved his father during the Battle of the Somme

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Mountain of rubbish is finally cleared away

IT has cost £2 million to remove a notorious rubbish heap that once towered 40ft near homes in Brierley Hill.

The mountain of waste has finally been completely cleared after blighting the area for seven years.

The former RDF site off Moor Street has been an infamous eyesore since 2009, after the firm allowed tonnes of waste to mount up.

The dispute over who was responsible went all the way to the High Court and in 2013 RDF company director Robert McNaughton was jailed for failing to remove the rubbish.

Even after this legal action the gigantic waste heap remained, much to the frustration of residents whose homes overlooked the site. It has now been removed after agreement between the Environment Agency, the council and landowner, which saw the latter pick up the £2 million bill.

Marc Lidderth (right) of the Enviroment Agency, with Dudley Council's Nick Powell (left) and Alistair Hilditch-Brown from Broad Enviromental

The rubbish was piled high and left so long that plants had started to grow on it

Digger

The clear-up was overseen by the Environment Agency, and conducted by contractors Broad Environmental, with the equivalent of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools full of rubbish removed over 10 months.

The final scraps of rubbish were removed by a digger last week, leaving a clear expanse of land and empty warehouse now likely to be used for homes.

Among those at the site on the final day, was Marc Lidderth, environment manager at the Environment Agency.

"This is a fantastic news story for the local community, who have been very supportive and patient while unfortunately we had to deal with this situation and the waste that was here," he said.

"In total there was 25,000 cubic metres of waste and to put that into context, that's around about the size of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools."

The team from contractors Broad Environmental, who were given the mammoth task, also discovered that there was about 10,000 cubic metres more rubbish than initially thought, meaning that the whole operation has taken even more time.

"The landowner has effectively paid for the complete removal of this waste from the site, which has meant there has been no expense to the taxpayer. The landowner has had to spend in the region of £2 million," said Mr Lidderth. "This is clearly a strong reminder and warning to landowners out there about the consequences and ultimately the responsibility they have about clearing waste from their land."

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storm

HomePro

Suspect is named in stabbing murder case

Niron Parker-Lee – suspect is dangerous and should not be approached by the public

POLICE have named a key suspect wanted in connection with a murder in Brierley Hill.

Niron Parker-Lee, 19, from Brierley Hill, is wanted in connection with the death of 24-year-old Mansoor Mahmood.

A murder probe was launched after Mr Mahmood was found stabbed in the stomach on the High Street at around 4.45pm on October 15, when he staggered bleeding into a shop. Fatally wounded, he later died in hospital.

Detective Inspector Harry Harrison, from West Midland's Police homicide team, said: "It's important we locate Niron Parker-Lee as soon as possible. I would urge anyone with information about his whereabouts to contact us. Someone knows where this man is and I'd remind them that harbouring a wanted man is a criminal offence."

Parker-Lee is described as dangerous and should not be approached the public. Anyone who can help is urged to contact police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Any sightings of Niron Parker-Lee should be reported to police immediately by calling 999.

Brothers are jailed over drug offences

TWO drug dealing brothers had over £6,000 worth of cocaine and cannabis along with nearly £6,000 cash at their home when it was raided by police, a judge heard.

There were 19 cannabis plants under cultivation in a bedroom with the help of a hydroponic system to speed growth, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Cocaine valued at almost £4,000 was discovered in the bedroom of 28-year-old music producer Paul Lawrence, along with £2,400 worth of cannabis.

Brother Liam, 27, a refuse collector, had cocaine with a value of £480 in his bedroom with £5,755 cash, said Miss Sally Cairns, prosecuting.

Lists

Police discovered a set of digital scales, a grinder and several dealer lists when they swooped on the property in Stourbridge Road, Dudley, and a car parked outside on June 20.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending both men, said: "They rue the day that they became involved with drugs.

"These offences were blips in what has been otherwise productive and law abiding lives."

By John Scott

He explained that father-of-one Liam had developed a drug habit a year and a half before the police raid and father-of-four Paul had been threatened over a debt to a drug dealer. He had been issued with the ultimatum of selling drugs for the dealer or facing the consequences.

Both men admitted possession of cocaine with intent. Paul Lawrence further pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis and cultivating it. He was jailed for two-and-a-half years. Liam Lawrence admitted acquiring criminal property and was locked up for 20 months.

Judge Michael Challinor told them: "You are both hard-working men from a good background who had bright futures. Now you are both looking at prison."

11th November 2016

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That's spooky! We just got engaged on Halloween night

A COUPLE who are horror movie fans got engaged at a spooky Halloween night in a first for the Black Country Living Museum.

Jade Jones, from Wolverhampton, agreed to assist during a knife throwing show, when she thought she had been randomly chosen as a volunteer from the audience by the performers at the Tipton Road attraction.

Little did she know that the two knife throwers were in on the act as they blindfolded the 21-year-old.

Propose

Boyfriend Daniel Guy, 21, from Cannock, got down on one knee to propose in front of an excited crowd. A surprised Jade said yes.

Jade and Daniel first met five years ago as friends when students on an animal care course at Rodbaston College. They only recently got back in contact with each other after a personal tragedy saw Jade lose her baby Alfie.

Sam, who comes from a travelling community and asked her mother's permission first, said they're now set for a big fat gypsy wedding in summer 2018.

Dan, aged 21, who works as a warehouse operative, said:"I'm so happy now, it was a bit overwhelming at the time.

"I want to thank the museum for everything they did."

Jade, who wasn't expecting the proposal, said: "It was a total surprise. And we've gone viral online – it's had 8,200 views."

Knife thrower Stephen Harley said: "It was a great honour to be a part of Black Country Living Museum making dreams a reality."

Jade Jones and Daniel Guy, both 21, outside the Bottle & Glass Inn at the Black Country Living Museum

Children in charge as pub celebrates

A PUB in Woodsetton is giving children the chance to take over Christmas for one day only.

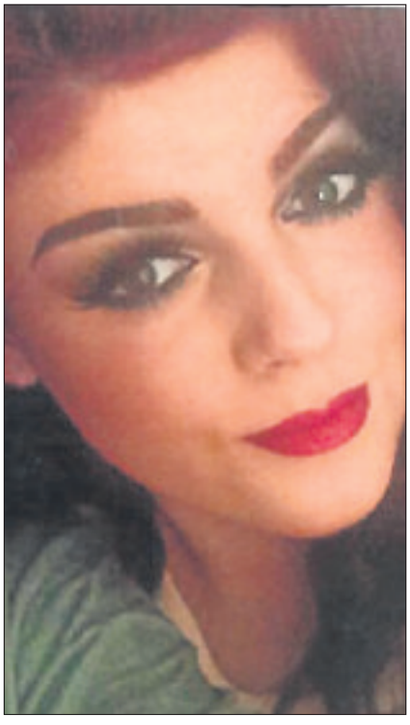
The Bramford Arms Hungry Horse pub on Park Road is searching for five local children to take charge of this year's festivities, including decorating the Christmas tree, wrapping presents, and putting up decorations.

The competition is open to children aged between four and 10 years old with the winning child joining four other winners from across the UK to take part in the Kidsmas video filming. Each lucky winner will bag themselves a £250 Toys R Us voucher. The pub will be also offering be celebrating the season of goodwill with a free Christmas meal from the new festive menu for every child who enters the competition.

Daniel Phillips, general manager at the Bramford Arms, said: "From decorating the Christmas tree to icing cakes, we've got loads of fun and festive activities in store, so we can't wait to see what Woodsetton's most creative kids come up with."

To enter your child into the 'Kidsmas' competition, visit www.hungryhorse.co.uk/kidsmas.

School pays tribute to crash victim Georgie



Georgie Ann Evans – former Kinver High School pupil

A SCHOOL is mourning a former student who died in a car crash in Dudley. Georgie Ann Evans died in at the scene of the accident in Priory Road, at the junction of Cedar Road, on October 27. A man has appeared before magistrates charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Former Kinver High School pupil Miss Evans, of Himley, was driving a Ford Fiesta involved in a collision with an Audi. A man in his 20s, a passenger in the Fiesta, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital with neck and back injuries.

Chris Rogers, headteacher at Kinver High School, said: "She was a genuinely lovely girl who worked really hard and had a lovely group of friends. She left with great GCSEs. Our thoughts and sympathy are with her family and friends."

Kuba Oles, 24, of Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court charged with causing death by dangerous driving, failing to stop at and report a road accident. He will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on November 28.

Drug farm in house was found by chance

POLICE found a drugs farm in Dudley capable of producing up to £19,000 worth of cannabis by chance.

Officers had gone to the address on an unrelated inquiry, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. But they detected the tell-tale smell of the drug while at the property in Stourbridge Road, Dudley, on May 4. A total of 25 plants were found under cultivation with the assistance of hydroponic growing systems in the garage and an upstairs bedroom. These had the potential to produce cannabis worth between £6,300 to £18,900, depending on the crop's quality.

Shane Cunningham, who lives at the property, admitted it was his drug farm but maintained it was for his personal use. Cunningham, who had no previous convictions, admitted producing cannabis and was given a six-month jail sentence suspended for 18 months and ordered to do 150 hours' unpaid work. Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey said: "Cannabis can, and does, ruin lives."

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CINTIQUE Erin orthopaedic chair	~~£499~~ £232
STRESSLESS Magic leather small swivel recliner chair and footstool	~~£1749~~ £875
ALSTONS Rydal fabric 2 seater sofa	~~£1249~~ £479
KRISTINA Leather recliner sofas and chairs - End of line to clear!	SAVE 60%
FAMA Milon Cuddler swivel chair in contemporary fabrics	~~£1599~~ £596
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RELYON Memory king size mattress	~~£399~~ £195
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MARBLE Lamp table	~~£349~~ £117
TV CORNER UNIT Solid oak	~~£299~~ £149
HALO Plum dining table and 4 chairs	~~£1069~~ £628
DINING TABLE SET Table with corner bench seating and bench	~~£1749~~ £689
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Imre Tolgyesi pictured in 1956

Imre's mother Iren Gulyas

Three-week Hungarian revolt stunned the Russians and the aftermath was felt in Wolverhampton

Failed uprising created shockwaves that were felt in Wolverhampton

IT lasted less than three weeks but the Hungarian uprising that convulsed Budapest exactly 60 years ago sent shockwaves throughout Europe that reverberated even as far as Wolverhampton.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Marion Brennan

It was to this Black Country city that dozens of Hungarian refugees, fleeing Russian tanks sent in to quash the rebellion, found sanctuary.

Among them was an eight-year-old boy and his mother who had escaped by rail and foot across the Austrian border and arrived in Tettenhall via the Cannock Chase wartime training camp at Brocton.

Now 69, Imre Tolgyesi still vividly remembers the day the uprising reached Gyor, the town, about the size of Wolverhampton, where he lived with his mother and grandparents.

"I was playing with friends when the Russian tanks came," he said. "The Mongolian troops were shooting at the demonstrators. I was so frightened, I ran home and hid until my mother, who worked as a cinema usherette, came home. A few days later she told me we were going for a train ride, she didn't say where to. We left with nothing."

Hunger, cold, fear and exhaustion followed but there were also many acts of kindness that made the journey across Germany and Belgium and, by boat, to England and the Black Country, tolerable.

But Imre Tolgyesi's life is extraordinary not only for his perilous escape from the Communist dictators who took over his homeland. Just as remarkable is the life he made for himself in Wolverhampton, as an upstanding citizen of his adopted home town and a pillar of the local Hungarian community.

Such has been his contribution that the Hungarian government has just awarded him the Order of Vitez, the equivalent of a British knighthood, in a ceremony in Budapest. The terrified eight-year-old could not have imagined he would one day return to the capital to receive his country's highest civic honour. But it is clear that despite a distance of more than 1,000 miles and six decades, part of Imre Tolgyesi never left Gyor.

Eclectic

His terraced house in Tettenhall, just off the village green, is crammed with momentos of his life and and loves, an eclectic mix of both cultures, for he has also embraced his adopted country.

There are richly-coloured tapestries, an Hungarian hunter's hat hanging from a peg and statuettes in Hungarian national costume but there are also quintessentially English artefacts such as horse brasses, a photograph of the Queen and, greeting visitors by the front door, a Beefeater figurine.

Among his extensive archive material is an essay he wrote at Wobaston Secondary Modern in 1963. The essay is entitled Escape From Hungary, which included the darkest moments of that journey, being followed by the secret police after he and his mother found themselves lost in a forest, as well as the light-hearted, like their amusement at the sight of the double-decker buses that were sent to Dover to pick them up.

After leaving school, he worked as an apprentice plumber and then a silver service waiter and cocktail barman at The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall before starting his own takeaway sandwich business. But for 35 years of his working life, he was employed by Wolverhampton social services, initially as an ambulance driver and later as a day centre officer, looking after the elderly and people with learning difficulties.

Alongside his paid work, the married father-of-three volunteered as a boy scout leader, has been a Justice of the Peace since 1989 and has assisted Hungarian elders in the city for the last three decades.

In 2003 he helped establish the Hungarian Cultural Association.

Honoured – Imre Tolgyesi Stanley, of Tettenhall

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Plan to develop derelict pub site

AN EYESORE pub which has blighted an estate for more than a decade looks set to be knocked down.

The Commercial Inn in Pensnett but has been empty for more than 10 years.

A campaign was launched by fed-up neighbours last year to try the site redeveloped.

A developer has now come forward with proposals to demolish the derelict pub and build nine apartments in its place.

And the plans have been backed by council officers, who have recommended members of the planning committee give the scheme the go-ahead when they meet this week.

Around 1,500 people signed a petition launched by the Corbyns Bromley Tenants and Residents Association calling for action over the building.

The pub has become a magnet for vandals. First-floor windows have been smashed and the ground floor boarded up.

Donations pouring in for family after crash tragedy

A FUNDRAISING campaign in memory of motorcyclist who died in a road accident in Halesowen has now passed the £6,800 mark.

Donations have flooded in after the online fund was launched following the death of 22-year-old Tom Winters, killed when his motorcycle hit a tree beside Manor Way on October 30.

Mr Winters, from Kidderminster, had recently celebrated the birth of his second child.

An online funding page was launched by friend Lewis Tisdall and a total of £6,894 had been raised by the start of this week.

Mr Winters' family said they were 'devastated' by his death. He was father to two boys, Freddie, aged three and one-month-old Rupert.

Pledged

Paramedics and passers-by battled to save Mr Winters after the accident but but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hundreds have pledged cash after Mr Tisdall, from Kidderminster, set up the JustGiving page.

He said: "Tom was an adored father, son, husband, brother and friend. Tom touched the lives of many with his kindness, compassion and beautiful humour. He will be missed greatly.

"We are raising money to go to Tom's partner Daisy and two young boys.

"The money will help them with unexpected expenses and will also be used to help the boys have a special Christmas during this traumatic time."

Two ambulances and the Midlands Air Ambulance were called to the scene at Manor Way after the crash happened near the Hagley Road junction at around 9.30am.

Father-of-two Tom Winters

Homelessness bill is backed

AN MP from Dudley has backed a bill to help tackle homelessness during a crucial vote in Parliament.

Mike Wood, MP for Dudley South, joined MPs in backing the Homelessness Reduction Bill at its second reading this week, helping to bring the bill one step closer to becoming law.

Proposed by Bob Blackman MP and supported by homelessness charities including Crisis, the bill could transform the help available to homeless people in the West Midlands and across the country.

Conservative MP Mr Wood said: "This is about social injustice – nobody should be forced to sleep rough because they can't get the help they need. I've personally heard from local constituents who were unable to get help when they became homeless and it's time we took action."

Stolen bus chase gang are sent behind bars

THREE men who ignored pursuing police for 12 miles while going for a ride in a stolen bus have been put behind bars.

By John Scott

Banned driver John Burton even carried on when two tyres of the single decker were burst by a 'stinger' laid across Penn Road, Wolverhampton, by police.

The vehicle continued on its wheel rims – and even overtook a car – while listing alarmingly and leaving a tell-tail trail of sparks in its wake.

The bus – tailed from the Shropshire border by a police helicopter and patrol cars with flashing lights and sirens – careered through a red traffic light without stopping in Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

It then went the wrong way round a traffic island, knocked down a road sign, clipped the kerb and tore off part of its bodywork causing £10,000 worth of damaged in a collision with a fence. But still it did not stop, revealed Mr Ian Windridge, prosecuting.

Caught

The Sandwell Travel vehicle finally came to a standstill in The Paddock, Bilston, where the driver and two passengers made a run for it but were quickly caught.

Two men had been seen stealing the bus from the company's base in Tinsley Street, Tipton, on March 30.

The pursuit started at 2.20am the next day – six hours later – when it triggered an automatic number plate recognition camera while heading towards Wolverhampton through Rudge Heath.

Mr Windridge continued: "Those on board knew the police were behind them but carried on for at least 10 minutes."

Neither 38-year-old Burton, of Beaconsfield, Brookside, Telford, nor his passengers – Simon Loveland, 39, from Dale Close, Tipton and Thomas Tibbs, 21, of Clinic Drive, Stourbridge – admitted stealing the single decker but all pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicle taking on the grounds of either driving or being carried in it. They had all been drinking.

Mr Andrew Mitchinson, defending, conceded: "It is only by the grace of God that serious injury was not caused to anybody."

Judge James Burbidge QC jailed Burton for 16 months and Loveland for a year. They had 37 and 31 previous convictions respectively.

Tibbs got a six-month term because of his age and single previous conviction.

Appeal to trace teenager after window smashed

POLICE are appealing for information after a lump of concrete was thrown through a house window on Halloween night in Hagley, near Stourbridge.

The incident happened just after 9pm on October 31 at a property in Hawthorn Coppice.

West Mercia Police want to trace a teenage boy who went to the address shortly afterwards. The youth sought is believed to be aged around 16.

Nobody was injured as a result of the incident.

A spokesman for the West Mercia Police said: "We are particularly keen on speaking to a boy, aged approximately 16 years, who went to the property 10 minutes after the incident who may have crucial information."

Anyone with information should contact the police on 101 and quote incident 870S of October 31, 2016. Or information can be provided anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org website.

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Rap artist is on track to help cancer stricken pal

A WOLVERHAMPTON rap artist has unveiled a heart-felt track paying tribute to his childhood friend who has a rare form of cancer.

James 'Lem The Lyricist' Lyman, aged 22, is aiming to spread awareness and raise funds for his lifelong pal Latham Grant, through his song My Day One.

Latham, 21, from Dudley, who plays for Stafford Rangers Football Club, is raising £40,000 for specialist treatment in Mexico for his nasopharyngeal cancer, which affects fewer than one in 100,000 people.

James, whose songs have featured on BBC radio, filmed the music video with his and Latham's family and friends outside St John's Church in Wolverhampton city centre.

Prayers

The former pupil of Dormston School, in Sedgley, said: "Latham has been more like a brother to me than a friend. The song is a message to say get better soon and come home better from treatment, and a thank you for everything he has done for me. He is feeling much better in himself lately."

Latham has already been to Mexico for the start of his treatment, and plans to return in February, James said the track took him around 40 minutes to write.

"Family and friends took part in the music video including Latham's brothers Jarrod and Casey. Latham's family were there, who are Christians and they said prayers."

The music video has appeared on the YouTube channel of the UK-based production company P110 and has amassed more than 3,000 views.

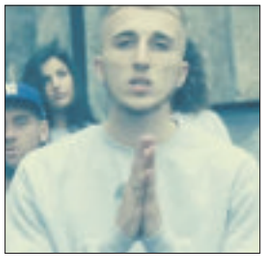
In the video, James and fellow cast members wear grey jumpers which have a picture of Latham on the front in a boxing stance. On the back are the back of the jumpers are the words 'Lath The Living Proof'. "It is to show there is alternative therapy out there for cancer aside from mainstream."

Latham was diagnosed with the cancer on June 22. One in 100,000 people with cancer have the disease which affects the throat, nasal passages and lymph nodes of patients.

Latham could go down the route of chemotherapy and radiotherapy but in his case this can have as low as two per cent success on someone with an already strong immune system.

Therefore, after hours of research, he decided to raise money for an alternative treatment in Mexico, including oxygen therapy and an alkaline diet.

Latham with his mother Tracy, father Chris and girlfriend Suzanna



James 'Lem The Lyricist' Lyman

Bonfire Night sparks 350 calls to firefighters

Part of the spectacular display at Himley Hall which attracted huge crowds for its 40th anniversary event

BONFIRE Night brought double the number of incidents for the West Midlands fire service this year – with over 350 call-outs.

As thousands of people braved the cold on Saturday to catch a glimpse of some of the Black Country's best firework displays, the service reported that they received 356 calls during the evening, up from on 197 the previous year. However, the majority of the calls were to small secondary, outdoor fires, mostly after people had lit bonfires on grass. They were also called to instances of smoke going into people's homes.

At Himley Hall, crowds gathered to celebrate the event's 40th year. Its biggest bonfire to date saw more than 1,500 wooden pallets used to build the bonfire and two kilometres of fuse wire was used to electronically spark the impressive fireworks.

Wolverhampton Racecourse's display was led by Signal 107 and compere Dicky Dodd. Whilst in Walsall, the Arboretum was awash with hundreds of sparkling fireworks and the event also featured Britain's Got Talent stars Stavros Flatley and included a music stage.

However, the firework display at Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, left some visitors disappointed.

The event, which was the busiest in years, allegedly saw some visitors turned away by security who were trying to keep control of the crowds.

Sandwell council released a statement on their Facebook page regarding the event. It said: "We're sorry to hear from people who were disappointed by the bonfire night at Dartmouth Park.

"It was incredibly busy and we're taking on board your feedback to understand the issues and help us organise future events."

Eve Hill medical practice wins award

The team at Eve Hill medical practice were highly commended for supporting primary care research work

A MEDICAL practice in the Black Country was highly commended in the National Institute of Health Research awards.

Eve Hill Medical Practice, in Dudley, was praised in the practice category.

The awards are run on partnership between the National Institute of Health Research and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). Dr David Shukla, of the practice, said: "We are delighted that they awarded the practice highly commended for our support of primary care research work."

These new awards, for members of the RCGP, recognise NHS GPs and general practices that are demonstrating excellence and innovation.

Text bid to groom girl

A MAN groomed a 12-year-old girl in the hope of starting a sexual relationship, a judge heard.

The 'selfish desires' of 31-year-old Andrew Turner blighted the childhood of the victim and left her with nightmares, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The grooming started with his request to be one of her friends on Facebook, developed through contact on Snapchat and ended with daily text messages, said Mr Bernard Linnemann, prosecuting.

Turner – whose wife is standing by him – admitted telling the girl in messages that she was sexy and pretty, that he loved her and was waiting until she was 16.

Turner invited her to meet him for a hug in an alleyway, but she refused and things began to unravel after his wife learned of his contact with the child.

Mr Nicholas Berry, defending, said: "The majority of this has been virtual contact through Facebook and the telephone. He is mortified by what he has done. He has issues which need to be addressed and a period of custody will not do that. He needs prolonged, sustained intervention."

Turner, of Court Crescent, Kingswinford, admitted attempting to meet a girl under 16 and grooming the child for sexual activity. The girl said in a victim statement: "I was having nightmares in which he was going to rape me. I was scared to go to sleep."

Judge James Burbidge QC told him: "You obviously had sexual interest in this child." Turner was given a three year community order in which he will receive professional help and a 10 year sexual harm prevention order.

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Jaws 2 as Brum band bite back

ALBUMS

By Leon Burakowski

SIMPLICITY, second album from Jaws, is a Brummie blend of dream pop with swirling shoegazer rock.

Formed in the Second City four years ago, the trio have been identified with the 'B-Town scene' which also produced Peace and Swim Deep, and they toured with the former after the release of their debut album Be Slowly in 2014.

Simplicity is likeable but not perfect, Connor Schofield's voice seems low in the mix. Their neo-psychedelic sound has hints of The Cure and a dance influence but is let down by some baggy clunkers. See Jaws at The Rainbow on December 2.

Essex boy made good via The X Factor, Olly Murs has hit a slick groove of easy-on-the-ear pop with his fifth album 24 HRS, on which he has written all but one of the songs.

The album includes the singles You Don't Know Love and Grow Up and is released in standard and deluxe versions, the latter with four extra tracks.

Murs is due to play three consecutive nights at the Genting Arena from March 23, and has already sold out two.

From pop punk to stadium rock, Oakland's over-rated **Green Day** have become the kind of rock dinosaurs they once wanted to subvert. Well, that's getting older for you. And probably nobody would have guessed that their back catalogue would have provided a musical theatre hit in American Idiot.

Twenty two years on from their breakthrough with Dookie, Billie Joe Armstrong and co sound like The Who on **Revolution Radio** opener Somewhere Now. But mostly its the familiar uptempo punky power pop, good but never special. They still sound closer to Busted than The Ramones or The Dead Kennedys.

Birmingham indie band Jaws are back with second album Simplicity

Ten years ago New Jersey band **My Chemical Romance** made **The Black Parade**, the 'emo' Sgt Pepper. If you can stomach the relentless doom and gloom of the lyrics, it's a solid rock album and the anniversary is marked by its re-release coupled with Living With Ghosts, unreleased demos and outtakes from the original recordings sessions with producer Rob Cavallo.

Is it possible for something new to give you nostalgia? I was left with an urge to get out a compilation album of 80s synth classics after listening to **Friends** (which should be subtitled: Are Electric), the fourth album from **White Lies** featuring the sonorous baritone vocals of Harry McVeigh.

These anthems hark back to the likes of Depeche Mode, The Human League, Flock of Seagulls and Simple Minds. Highlights include the stately Swing, slow-burning Come On, the magnificent Right Place and Roxy Music-like Don't Fall. White Lies are in concert at the O2 Institute in Birmingham on November 29.

Blending riot grrl attitude with sharp and melodic power pop, **Honeyblood** mark II's new album **Babes Never Die** is a treat from Glaswegian singer-guitarist Stina Tweedale and her new tub-thumper Cat Myers. The duo play Digbeth's Rainbow on November 19.

Punk, psychedelia and early Pink Floyd are among the influences on **Clear Shot**, the defiantly lo-fi third album from **Toy**, the band most likely to be a UK equivalent to the Flaming Lips or Tame Impala. Highlights include Dream Orchestrator with its epic wall of sound. Prepare to have your mind expanded when they play Digbeth's Rainbow on November 22.

Ten years on from their debut, Irish hard rock outfit **The Answer** sound re-energised on their sixth album, **Solas**, which begins with its brooding Led Zep-like title track. Singer Cormac Neeson establishes himself as a prince of wails as the band's blues rock sound absorbs eastern and Celtic influences. The Answer are in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy 2 on November 19.

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Full Throttle

Show that needs no costumes – Page 21

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BENJAMINS
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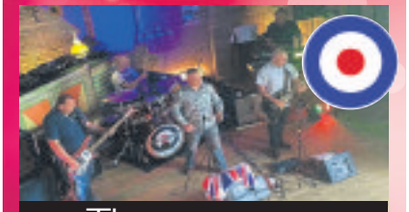
Live Entertainment
Friday 11th November



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Friday 16th December
DISCO AND THREE COURSE MEAL
with Balloons, Hats, Party Poppers etc
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CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR
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£7.50 Children Under 14
Birmingham Street, Halesowen B63 3HN.
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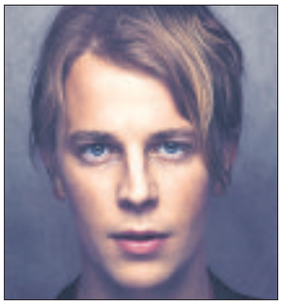
www.benjaminsbanquet.co.uk

Rachmaninov's Symphony No1

Tuesday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the Philharmonic Orchestra for the Rachmaninov, and acclaimed young pianist Alice Sara Ott (pictured) takes on Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1.
See **thsh.co.uk**

Tom Odell



Tomorrow, 7pm
O2 Academy, Birmingham
Singer-songwriter from West Sussex, who had an instant impact with hit single Another Love in 2012, has sold out this date on the back of a new album.
See **academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham**

The 3rd UK Blues Challenge

Saturday, 7pm
Robin 2, Bilston
Brum-based blues belter Rebecca Downes (pictured) features with Willie & The Bandits, Dove & Boweevil and Kaz Hawkins in a battle of the blues with a trophy for the winner.
See **therobin.co.uk**

Frank Carter and the Rattlesnakes

Tuesday, 7pm
The Slade Rooms, W'ton
The punk-influenced rock band with a fearsome live reputation will get this intimate venue rocking to the sound of their forthcoming Modern Ruin album including new single Lullaby.
See **www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

ROCK & METAL

Oasis v The Stone Roses
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177 or 07986 577 661

A Vision Of Elvis
Tonight,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Architects
Tonight,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

UK Foo Fighters Tribute – Nothing's Set In Stone Tour
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Pearl Jam U.K. (Tribute): Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Ten
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Total Stone Roses + The Natural Emotions
Tonight, £7 - £10
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Roxy Magic – UKs No1 Tribute to Roxy Music and Bryan Ferry
Tomorrow, £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Floyd Effect – The Pink Floyd Tribute Show
Tomorrow,
Courtyard Hereford, HR4 9JR.
Call 01432 340555

The Solid Gold Rock n Roll Show
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Absolute Bowie
Tomorrow, £14
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Stone Broken
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

New Model Army
Sun,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes...
Tue,
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Queen Extravaganza
Wed,
Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Bay City Rollers starring Les McKeown
Wed,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Courteeners
Thu,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

CLASSICAL

Spectacular Classics
Tomorrow, £16.50 - £42.50
Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham. B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Opera Anywhere presents The Magic Flute – Mozart
Tomorrow,
The Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses, B15 3TR.
Call 0121 454 1860

Chandos: The Friends 25th Anniversary Concert
Sun,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Hemantika
Sun,
The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Forever in Blue Jeans
Tomorrow, £19.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Traditional Irish Music
Mon,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Jack Garratt
Tue,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Foster & Allen in Concert
Wed,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Vin Garbutt
Wed, £12
The Red Lion, Birmingham, B14 7LY.
Call 0121 444 2803

Jon Boden
Thu,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

CLUBBING

Decade Of Muzik Hertz meets Philly Blunt
Tonight, 11pm - tomorrow, 5am
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

POP

80's Mania
Tomorrow,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Voulez-Vous
Tomorrow, £26
The Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Julia Fordham – Live By Request
Tue,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, REGGAE & MOTOWN

Clare Teal
Sun,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

LatinMotion presents Del Camino
Thu,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Alabama 3 (celebrating their 20 years anniversary)
Thu,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

ARTS & CULTURE

Masterclass: Dynamics Of Colour
Wed,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

COMEDY

Comedy 42 – November
Tonight,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Paul Foot: 'Tis a Pity She's a Piglet
Tonight,
Glee Club Birmingham, The Arcadian Center, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Joel Dommet
Tonight,
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Nish Kumar: Actions Speak Louder Than Words, Unless You Shout the Words Real Loud
Tonight,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Al Murray – Lets Go Backwards Together
Tomorrow,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Henning Wehn – Westphalia Is Not An Option
Tomorrow,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Jim Davidson
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Sean Lock – Keep It Light
Sun, £25
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Omid Djalili: Schmuck For A Night
Tue, £24
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD. Call 01905 611427

Kevin Bloody Wilson
Tue, £29.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

RH Comedy Presents
Thu,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Nathan Caton
Thu,
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

THEATRE

Dirty Dancing
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

Ellen Kent's Nabucco
Tonight,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Waiting for Godot
Tonight - Thu,
Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

Kiss Me Kate
Tonight - tomorrow, £16.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

The Commitments
Mon - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

An Evening With Michael Parkinson (cancelled)
Mon,
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Les Contes D'Hoffman
Tue, £16 - £17
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

Our House
Tue - Thu,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes
Wed,
The Birmingham & Midland Institute, B3 3BS.
Call 0121 236 3591

Looking For John
Wed - Thu, £10 - £13.50
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

A Christmas Carol – Junior Production 2016
Thu,
Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, King Edward's School, Birmingham, B15 2UA.
Call 0121 472 9585

Psychic Sally – Call Me Psychic
Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Shakespeare Schools Festival 2016
Thu,
The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Nothing to lose but inhibitions

They can keep their hat on – the cast of The Full Monty, the musical about steel workers who become strippers

THE hit musical about jobless Yorkshire steel workers who find a revealing way to make money, The Full Monty, arrives at Birmingham Hippodrome on Monday for a six day run.

Nearly 20 years ago the movie about six out-of-work Sheffield steelmen, left with nothing to lose but there inhibitions, went on to be one of the most successful British films. The story still resonates in an age of job insecurity.

Simon Beaufoy, the Oscar and BAFTA-winning writer, adapted his own screenplay for the hilarious and heartfelt stage production, which features iconic songs by Donna Summer, Hot Chocolate and Tom Jones.

This touring production of the former West End hit is led by Gary Lucy as Gaz, with Andrew Dunn as Gerald, Louis Emerick as Horse, Chris Fountain as Guy and Kai Owen as Dave. Anthony Lewis will now be playing the role of Lomper as Joe Absolom had to withdraw due to filming commitments.

Anthony Lewis is best known as Marc Reynolds in Emmerdale. Gary Lucy played Danny Pennant in EastEnders, DS Will Fletcher in The Bill, Kyle Pascoe in Footballer's Wives and Luke Morgan in Hollyoaks, and was a runner-up in Dancing on Ice.

Andrew Dunn is best known as Tony in Dinnerladies, while Louis Emerick played Mick Johnson in the Merseyside soap Brookside and PC Walsh in the long-running sitcom Last of the Summer Wine.

Chris Fountain played Tommy Duckworth in Coronation Street and was a runner-up of Dancing on Ice. Kai Owen is best known for his roles in Torchwood and Hollyoaks.

Director Jack Ryder, who is best known for playing Jamie Mitchell in EastEnders, also directed the national touring production of hit show Calendar Girls.

For tickets see www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Is Our House up your street?

BILSTON Operatic Company return to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre with the Madness musical Our House, following the success of last year's production of Hairspray.

The show, which starts a five-day run on Tuesday, combines a witty romance with the energetic songs of Madness. It follows Joe Casey who, on his 16th birthday, takes Sarah, the girl of his dreams, out on their first date. In an effort to impress her with bravado, he breaks into a building site overlooking his home on Casey Street. The police turn up at which point Joe's life splits into two – Good Joe, who stays to help, and Bad Joe, who flees.

Our House won the Olivier Award For Best New Musical in 2003 and ran for 10 months at London's Cambridge Theatre. It features the songs It Must Be Love, Baggy Trousers, Night Boat To Cairo, House Of Fun, Driving In My Car and, of course, Our House.

This amateur production is directed and choreographed by Laura Canadine. Birmingham Ormiston Academy student Ben Evans from Lower Penn plays Joe and playing Sarah is Abi Strudwicke, of Codsall Wood, who is head girl at Thomas Telford School. Both are pictured left.

Mike James and Sue Towler play Joe's parents with the cast of talented local performers also including Tom Withers, Matt Coombes, Jordan Barrett, Katie Harrison, Jacob Kholi and Al Smith.

For tickets see grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Bilston Operatic Society's productions at the Grand in recent years have also included Hairspray Peter Pan, Annie and Hello, Dolly!

Boogie nights and much more at Robin

SOUL, blues, southern boogie and jazz-rock are all on the agenda at Bilston's Robin 2 over the next week.

On Friday 70s British disco favourites The Real Thing and Heatwave team up at the Mount Pleasant venue.

Top blues acts compete in the 3rd UK Blues Challenge on Saturday and former Amen Corner frontman Andy Fairweather Low brings his Lowriders for a soul night on Sunday.

Florida rock legends Molly Hatchet visit on Monday, the Danny Giles Band lead a triple bill of blues on Tuesday and jazz-rock pioneers Soft Machine play on Wednesday.

Get the Sweats with soulful sounds

KEY gigs this week include the return of acclaimed live act Nathaniel Rateliff & The Nite Sweats with stomping soulful sounds at the O2 Academy in Birmingham on Monday.

You can take in reggae classics at the O2 Institute in Digbeth on Saturday when the late Bob Marley's backing band The Wailers spread One Love vibes.

Or get your fill of punky J rock when Tokyo outfits Mutant Monster and Touch My Secret hit the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Monday. That venue also hosts The Wave Pictures on Monday in the other room and ex-Icicle Works frontman Ian McNabb on Tuesday.

Big hair and great tunes from the 80s

BIG hair, check; shoulder pads, check; neon colours, check; so it's time to return to the 1980s.

80's Mania Show is Europe's official 1980s multi-tribute concert, with organisers declaring: "If you love the 80s – do not miss this show."

The show at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday features 25 chart-topping pop icons recreated with live band and awesome dancers.

They perform more than 35 hits with tributes to Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet, Kim Wilde, Culture Club, Madonna, Wham!, The Human League, Adam Ant, Madness and many more.

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, November 10, 2016

CHOICE

Darcey Bussell

Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.55pm)

For many fans, Halloween Week is one of the highlights of the Strictly calendar, and it certainly delivered this year. The wardrobe and makeup departments let their imaginations run away with them, although arguably the biggest shock came when Ed Balls scored an eight for his mad-scientist-themed cha cha (followed closely by Danny Mac proving he is fallible after all when he stumbled in his foxtrot). But now another Strictly milestone is looming as next week, the show will be coming to us live from Blackpool, and none of the eight remaining celebs will want to miss out on a trip to ballroom dancing's spiritual home. But who will impress judges and the voting public?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.45** The Lord Mayor's Show. **12.05** Football Focus. **12.35** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Four Nations Rugby League. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. Scotland v Australia. **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.45** BBC News. **5.55** Regional Programme.

6.05 Pointless Celebrities. Edition focusing on the subject of music, with Sinitta, Jaymi Hensley, Vernie Bennett, Easther Bennett, Claire Richards, Ian 'H' Watkins, Tony Christie and Ben Adams. (R)

6.55 Strictly Come Dancing. The eight remaining couples show off their skills on the dance-floor, as Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood appraise their form.

8.10 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

9.00 The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Michael Ball and Alfie Boe, Laura Mvula, Birdy and Alexander Armstrong perform alongside the Royal Air Force Squadronaires and the Band of HM Royal Marines. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

10.40 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

11.00 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner invites Vernon Kay, Kelly Hoppen and Miles Jupp to discuss their pet hates, which include litter louts, toilet-roll covers and loud noises. (R)

11.40 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream. Romesh Ranganathan reunites with his mum in Los Angeles, where they visit the set of a US soap, go undercover with a private detective, and attend a Comic Con. Last in the series.

12.10 Film: The Rebound. (2009) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Film: Government Girl. (1943) **7.35** The Women's Football Show. (R) **8.10 Film:** Suspicion. (1941) **9.45** Secret Britain. (R) **10.45** The Good Cook. (R) **11.15** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.15** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.45** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.30** Talking Pictures. **2.15 Film:** Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) Comedy drama, starring Spencer Tracy. **4.00** Flog It! **5.00** Live International Rugby Union. Wales v Argentina (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 International Rugby Union. England v South Africa. Jason Mohammad presents highlights from Twickenham, where the autumn international schedule got under way with this match against the touring Springboks. England coach Eddie Jones picked the uncapped Sale full-back Mike Haley, Saracens fly-half Alex Lozowski, Bath lock Charlie Ewels, Harlequins prop Kyle Sinckler, Wasps forward Nathan Hughes and Worcester centre Ben Te'o for this series. Northampton flanker Tom Wood also returned to the squad amid an injury crisis in the back row, with Gloucester pair Ben Morgan and Jonny May, alongside Bath second row Dave Attwood, also coming back into the fold. With analysis from Jeremy Guscott and commentary by Alastair Eykyn and Brian Moore.

8.30 Balletboyz – Young Men. Feature-length dance film without dialogue shot on location in northern France, featuring dancers from the BalletBoyz company.

9.30 Film: Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom. (2013) Premiere. Biopic of the South African political leader, following his rise to become one of the most prominent activists against the apartheid regime. His campaign results in his imprisonment, with wife Winnie continuing the struggle. His release after several decades brings fresh challenges, as he becomes the country's first democratically elected president and must find a way to build a united nation.

11.50 Film: Red Tails. (2012) Black US fighter pilots battle both the German air force and racism in their own ranks. Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Terrence Howard.

1.50 This Is BBC Two. **5.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.50** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.50** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Cash Trapped. (R) **1.55** This Time Next Year. (R) **2.55** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **4.20** The Chase. (R) **5.25** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Johnny Vegas, Linda Robson and Ann Widdecombe answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Meet the Parents. Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary hosts as the live show phase continues, and the tension mounts as the remaining contestants are put through yet another set of nail-biting performances. As always, Louis Walsh, Sharon Osbourne, Nicole Scherzinger and Simon Cowell take their seats at the judges desks, as the would-be stars sing in front of the panel – and the nation. The celebrity panellists will all be hoping the acts they've mentored will be throwing themselves into the music as the contest's conclusion looms ever closer.

9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by TV presenter Jeremy Clarkson, singer Robbie Williams, comedian Micky Flanagan and Little Mix.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: The Bourne Ultimatum. (2007) The amnesiac assassin regains his memory, just as a CIA director sets in motion a plan to kill him. Spy thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon, Julia Stiles and David Strathairn.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Gillette World Sport. **6.40** Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Deal or No Deal. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Jamie's Super Food. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 China: Between Clouds and Dreams. The second in this series of intimate films continues the stories of Chinese schoolchildren, mothers and journalists investigating the effects of climate change across this vast country. Tibetan monks discover the threat to the snow leopard's habit caused by a planned dam on the Yangtze river, four schoolchildren investigate why people in their town are suffering from mystery illnesses and a young mother takes on the might of a factory which she believes is causing cancer amongst local inhabitants.

8.00 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix Qualifying – Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position in the 20th round of the season, which takes place at Interlagos in Sao Paulo. Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg secured the front position on the grid at last year's race, as he finished 0.078 seconds faster than his teammate Lewis Hamilton.

9.30 Film: Non-Stop. (2014) An air marshal on a transatlantic flight receives mysterious messages in which an anonymous terrorist threatens to kill one passenger every 20 minutes unless a ransom is paid. He searches the plane for the criminals responsible, but his investigation is threatened when he is framed as being the mastermind behind the plot. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson.

11.40 Film: Underworld: Awakening. (2012) Vampire Selene awakes from cryonic suspension to battle mutant werewolves and a plot to annihilate the undead. Action fantasy, with Kate Beckinsale.

1.20 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.25** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. (R) **4.20** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Wedding Town. **5.45** Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** House Doctor. (R) **11.45 Film:** A Bride for Christmas. (2012) Romantic drama, with Arielle Kebbel and Andrew W Walker. **1.25 Film:** Christmas Angel. (2012) Family drama, starring Della Reese. **3.30** FIA Formula E Live: Marrakech. The Marrakech ePrix. **5.30 Film:** 2012. (2009) Disaster movie, starring John Cusack.

8.25 NCIS: New Orleans. A naval psychologist is found dead in close proximity to the route of a traditional New Orleans second-line funeral procession. When the agents investigate, they discover the victim had been secretly photographing the parade, and LaSalle is attacked by an unknown assailant. Delving further into the mysteries surrounding the case, the team uncovers a complex plot involving the founder of New Orleans, grave robbers, and what seems to be a dead man walking.

9.20 NCIS: New Orleans. A US Navy lieutenant dies from arsenic poisoning while secretly visiting an Army general's hotel room. When an old friend asks Pride to keep the subsequent investigation under wraps, it becomes clear the woman may have been killed to cover up an affair that could jeopardise a war hero's chances of securing a position with Homeland Security. However, when it emerges the victim was also investigating corruption among port authorities, involving the theft of millions of dollars from the US Government, a new motive for murder becomes clear.

10.15 That's So 1985. A look at events in 1985 using news, pop and TV archive clips to provide a reminder of the time, including the Live Aid concerts prompted by the famine in Ethiopia. (R)

11.15 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Coventry City v Scunthorpe United, and Luton Town v Accrington Stanley.

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. Julian Norton tries to save a much-loved farm dog. (R) **4.00** Storm Force: Winter Road Rescue. The work of road recovery experts during the winter months. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 India's Frontier Railways **8.00** The Incredible Human Journey **9.00** Deep Water **10.50** Jeff Lynne's ELO at Hyde Park **12.15** Tubular Bells: The Mike Oldfield Story **1.15** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.35** Jeff Lynne's ELO at Hyde Park **3.55** Close

ITV2

11.30 You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! **12.30 Film:** The Lake House (2006) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35 Film:** The Lake House (2006) **2.35 Film:** Honey (2003) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40 Film:** Honey (2003) **4.40 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **6.25 Film:** Arthur (2011) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** Arthur (2011) **8.30** Scorpion **9.30** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Celebrity Juice **11.00** Prank Pad **1.00** Family Guy **1.30** American Dad! **2.00** Bordertown **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.05 Film: Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match (1973) **1.40** Inspector Morse **4.00** Midsomer Murders **7.55** Doc Martin **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** The Blonde Bombshell **1.10** Wycliffe **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

12.45 Snooker: Champion of Champions Live. The opening session of the final at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry. **5.20** Storage Wars: Texas **5.45** Storage Wars **6.45** Snooker: Champion of Champions Live. The second session of the final at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry. **11.15 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.20** Monster Carp **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Black-ish **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.00 Film:** Aliens in the Attic (2009) **3.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** The Big Bang Theory: Wizard Weekend **9.00 Film:** Magic Mike (2012) **11.15** Gogglebox **12.20** Rude Tube **1.25** The Inbetweeners **2.35** New Girl **4.00** The Mindy Project **4.45** Revenge

Film4

11.00 The Last Frontier (1955) **1.00** Home Alone (1990) **3.05** The Spy Next Door (2010) **4.55** Carry On Spying (1964) **6.45** I, Robot (2004) **9.00** Gladiator (2000) **12.00** 48 Hrs (1982) **1.55** Sorority Row (2009) **4.00** Close

CHOICE

Eileen O'Higgins

My Mother and Other Strangers (BBC1, 9pm)

Take a trip back in time with this new drama to Northern Ireland during the Second World War. Hattie Morahan heads the cast as Rose, the matriarch of the Coyne family. English born and bred, she followed her husband Michael to his home in Moybeg, where she has since raised three children. Wartime seems exciting to their young son Francis, whose friend tries to persuade him to explore the local air base dump, while teenage daughter Emma falls for one of the American airmen stationed there. But it's Captain Dreyfuss who will have the biggest impact on the family's lives when he and Rose form an undeniable bond that threatens the future happiness of her loved ones.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.20** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph. **12.30** The People Remember. **1.30** BBC News; Weather. **1.45** Live Four Nations Rugby League. England v Australia (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.15** Planet Earth II. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News.

6.10 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile: A Remembrance Sunday Special. Helen Skelton joins a cycle ride across Northern France commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and discovers how bicycles were used on the front line in the First World War. John Craven discovers how tractors played a role in the development of tanks, Ellie Harrison visits the National Memorial Arboretum, and Jules Hudson reveals how the countryside helped one soldier's recovery. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show. The professional dancers give a performance for Remembrance Day and Andre Rieu performs Hallelujah.

8.00 Planet Earth II. Animals that live in mountain ranges, including rival snow leopards, grizzly bears using trees to shed their winter fur, and golden eagles hunting over snow-capped peaks.

9.00 My Mother and Other Strangers. New series. Drama set in Northern Ireland during the Second World War following the fortunes of a family living near a United States Army Air Force airfield. Hattie Morahan stars.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 The Selfless Sikh: Faith on the Frontline. Documentary following Sikh aid worker Ravi Singh, who was inspired by his faith's teachings to travel to Iraq and provide support for Yazidi families fleeing persecution by Isis.

11.00 DIY SOS at Great Ormond Street Hospital. The DIY SOS team embarks on a special challenge, transporting Chris Beardshaw's Chelsea Flower Show garden to the Great Ormond Street Hospital, and rebuilding it on the roof. (R)

12.00 Citizen Khan. (R) **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.15** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **7.45** Greatest Gardens. (R) **8.15** Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children In Need. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Good Cook. (R) **11.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** International Rugby Union. (R) **2.00** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. Coverage of the opening day at the O2 in London. **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph Highlights.

6.30 Film: Miss Potter. (2006) Victorian writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter is unable to find a firm willing to give her book based on a character called Peter Rabbit a chance, until a timid publisher with whom she falls in love takes on her project. Biographical period drama, starring Renee Zellweger, Ewan McGregor, Emily Watson and Barbara Flynn.

8.00 Operation Gold Rush with Dan Snow. The team arrives at Dawson City, and sets up a mining camp in the gold fields. They have just five days to find gold using only traditional 19th-century methods. Last in the series.

9.00 Will Britain Ever Have a Black Prime Minister? David Harewood presents a documentary examining the obstacles that make it difficult for black people to rise to positions of power and influence in British society.

10.00 Black Is the New Black. Naomi Campbell, Dizzee Rascal, David Harewood, Tinie Tempah, Trevor McDonald and Alesha Dixon share their thoughts on growing up, touching on family, school and the working world.

10.30 Later – with Jools Holland: Groove & Grime. Jools presents a compilation of archive clips featuring black artists, including performances by D-Influence, Emeli Sande, Craig David, Stormzy, Mark Morrison and Dizzee Rascal.

11.30 Film: She's Out of My League. (2010) An average man begins a relationship with a beautiful and clever woman, but is haunted by the fear that she can do better than him. Romantic comedy, with Jay Baruchel and Alice Eve.

1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children In Need. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Chase. (R) **1.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.05** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Tipping Point. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Off Their Rockers. Katie Price joins the old age pranksters.

7.00 The Next Great Magician. Jim Carter and Amy Childs help some of the second batch of performers with their illusions.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the results of last night's show, revealing who is through to the next stage before a sing-off decides which act will be eliminated from the contest.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! New series. Ant and Dec return to the jungles of Murwillumbah in New South Wales, Australia to present the latest series of the celebrity survival challenge. Contestants foregoing their creature comforts to brave the hardships of the Bush for this series are unconfirmed at the time of going to press, but all will no doubt face a struggle to complete the gruelling daily physical and mental tasks, as well as taking a mouthful of some of the region's more gruesome wildlife in the Bushtucker Trials.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 The Pity of War: The Loves and Lives of the War Poets. Fact-based First World War drama telling the story of poets Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen and Robert Graves as they are confronted with the chaos of the trenches. With John Hurt.

12.00 Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights. **12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Triathlon: Challenge Aruba. **6.40** Frasier. (R) **7.05** Frasier. (R) **7.30 Film:** Imagine That. (2009) Fantasy comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham and Fontwell Park. **2.45 Film:** Rango. (2011) Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp. **4.50 Film:** Johnny English. (2003) Spy comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Last Heroes of the Somme. The story of how the Battle of the Somme was finally won after four months of fighting, as the British forces made one final desperate push, backed up by early tanks, that changed the course of the First World War. The film follows the families of seven soldiers who fought on the final day of the struggle 100 years previously, who share diaries and letters and pay a visit to the battlefield.

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales venture into the open sea as they make their way through the islands of Scotland's coast. Their destination is the rarely used nine-mile Crinan canal on the Mull of Kintyre, described as the world's most beautiful shortcut. However, the Atlantic waves off the coast of Mull force them to head inland to Tobermory. They later explore the holy island of Iona and the Isle of Jura.

9.00 Humans. Athena arrives in the UK, and her tragic secret is revealed. Niska's consciousness assessments begin, and the Synths are forced to abandon their hiding place, while Mia shocks her friends by making a decision with serious repercussions. Karen returns to work, but her relationship with Pete is strained, and Joe starts to notice something strange about Sophie's behaviour.

10.00 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the race at Interlagos in Sao Paulo, which served as the 20th and penultimate round of the season.

12.05 Film: The Sitter. (2011) Comedy, starring Jonah Hill. **1.45** The Last Leg. (R) **2.40** Killing Kennedy. Drama about the assassination of JFK, starring Rob Lowe. (R) **4.25** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.40** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** Wedding Town. **5.55** The King of Queens. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.00** 5 News Special: Remembrance Sunday. **11.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.05** House Doctor. (R) **1.05 Film:** The Heart of Christmas. (2011) Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure. **2.50 Film:** Road to Christmas. (2006) Romantic comedy drama, starring Jennifer Grey and Clark Gregg. **4.35 Film:** One Christmas Eve. (2014) Premiere. Family comedy, starring Anne Heche.

6.15 Film: Married by Christmas. (2016) Premiere. The head of a family-run company realises she has to get married by Christmas or she will lose the business to her sister. Comedy, starring Jes Macallan and April Bowlby. Includes 5 News at 7.15pm.

8.00 Ice Road Truckers. Todd finds a novel way of conquering a melted ice crossing, while Darrell and Lisa struggle to make it home and Alex faces a race against the clock.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Pompeii. (2014) Premiere. A gladiator in the ancient Roman city falls in love with the daughter of a wealthy merchant, who is being forced into marriage with a corrupt senator. When the nearby volcano Vesuvius erupts, he fights to save her and escape the destruction of the city. Disaster movie, starring Kit Harington, Emily Browning, Carrie-Anne Moss and Kiefer Sutherland. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

11.05 Film: Red Dawn. (2012) Teenagers form a resistance movement when their home town is taken over by North Korean invaders. Action adventure remake, with Chris Hemsworth.

12.45 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **4.00** Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Canals – The Making of a Nation **7.30** Books That Made Britain **8.00** Jeremy Deller: We're here because we're here **8.30** Railway Walks **9.00** Destination Titan **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Cathy Come Home **11.50** Nature's Wonderlands: Islands of Evolution **12.50** Stuff: A Horizon Guide to Materials **1.50** Destination Titan **2.50** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **3.50** Close

ITV2

1.35 Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40 Film:** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **3.20 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.25 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **7.00 Film:** Jack and Jill (2011) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05 Film:** Jack and Jill (2011) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **10.30** The Hot Desk: Busted **10.45** I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp **11.45** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.15** The Cleveland Show **2.10** The Hot Desk: Vicky Pattison

ITV3

11.25 FYI Daily **11.30 Film:** Black Beauty (1994) **12.10** A Touch of Frost **2.15 Film:** Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind (1975) **3.50 Film:** The Queen (2006) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55 Film:** The Queen (2006) **5.55** By Royal Appointment **7.10** The Making of a Lady **9.00** Appropriate Adult **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.10** Wycliffe **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** On the Buses

ITV4

11.55 Cash Cowboys **1.55 Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **2 3.40 Film:** The Man from the Alamo (1953) **5.20** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **7.25** World Cup Qualifier Live. Portugal v Latvia (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Storage Wars **10.30** World Cup Qualifier Highlights **12.05 Film:** Fastest (2011) **2.20** Tommy Cooper

E4

11.30 Made in Chelsea **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **1.30 Film:** Scrooged (1988) **3.30** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **10.30** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.35** The Inbetweeners **12.40** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **1.50** Crazyhead **2.45** Body Fixers

Film4

11.00 Bend of the River (1952) **1.00** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **3.05** ParaNorman (2012) **4.55** Moonrise Kingdom (2012) **6.55** Terminal Velocity (1994) **9.00** R.I.P.D (2013) **11.00** The Last King of Scotland (2006) **1.30** Monsieur Lazhar (2011) **3.35** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
In Time, Channel 5, 11.05pm
Future scientists reverse the ageing process, allowing people to live for ever. To avoid overpopulation, time becomes a currency, with the rich living indefinitely while the poor must toil to stave off death. A factory worker acquires 100 years of time, and spends it fighting to redress the balance of power. Sci-fi thriller, starring Justin Timberlake. (2011)

TUESDAY
The March Sisters at Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Four sisters are shocked to learn their family home will have to be sold because of the the massive amount of repair work it needs. When their parents go away, the girls come up with a plan to restore the place themselves and have it back to its former glory by Christmas. Drama inspired by Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, starring Julie Marie Berman. (2012)

In Time, Monday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Fifty Dead Men Walking, BBC1, 11.45pm
Fact-based thriller telling the story of Martin McGartland, who was recruited as a police informant in 1980s Belfast and sent on a mission to infiltrate the IRA. He rose swiftly through the ranks, providing vital information to the British authorities. Once he was exposed, he was tortured and forced to go into hiding. Starring Jim Sturgess and Ben Kingsley. (2008)

THURSDAY
A Christmas Kiss, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An aspiring designer impulsively kisses a man she meets in a lift, only to discover he is her boss's boyfriend. She is given the task of decorating his house for a lavish Christmas party, but begins to fall in love with him – while he does not remember their previous encounter. Romantic drama, with Laura Breckenridge and Elisabeth Rohm. (2011)

FRIDAY
Carry On Jack, ITV, 11.15pm
A bumbling midshipman has his identity stolen by a woman desperate to go to sea, and then ends up press-ganged on to the same ship. Comedy, with Bernard Cribbins and Juliet Mills. (1963)

New drama hopes to be a novel success

Actress Phoebe Fox is clearly in demand at the moment – not only can she be seen in Stephen Poliakoff's latest series, Close to the Enemy, she's also cropping up in another one of BBC Two's most prestigious offerings, NW.

Adapted from Zadie Smith's best-selling novel, the feature-length drama follows Natalie (Nikki Amuka-Bird) and Leah (Fox), two friends who grew up together in north-west London, but whose lives have taken them in very different directions.

Phoebe explains: "Leah and Natalie both grew up on the same estate, they are best friends but they have reached a point in their lives where they are so far away from each other.

"Natalie's lost sight of who she is and it's hard for a friendship to survive when you don't recognise your best friend anymore. They love each other but they also sort of hate each other's guts. It's a very complicated relationship."

Her co-star Nikki adds: "Natalie starts out life as Keisha. From a modest background, she's incredibly intelligent and driven, and pushes herself on to university, eventually becoming a barrister. She then marries the 'perfect' man, has two children and seems like she has the perfect life.

"She's a miracle of her own self-invention, but she reaches a point in her mid-thirties where she asks herself what it's all about and has an existential crisis. It's at this time in her life that we meet Natalie in NW."

So, at least she still has something in common with Leah, who is facing some big decisions of her own. Phoebe says: "She's dealing with something that is still quite taboo for women to talk about; she doesn't want to have kids. That's her main story within the book and the screenplay. We see her having to confront something which is seen as being so fundamentally female."

It's one of the elements that drew the actress to the role. "It's very rare to see such finely drawn female characters, for them to be dealing with issues that are so true to life, instead of worrying about whether a guy likes them or not.

"As an actress you spend a lot of time in those kind of roles, falling in and out of love with the right and the wrong man; so to actually address deeper issues was really exciting. A lot of my friends don't want to have kids, it's not a cut and dry issue for our generation, so Leah felt very real – that really appealed to me."

And it's not just the characters that felt authentic – the contemporary London setting did too. Asked what viewers can expect from NW, Phoebe says: "I think they can expect a portrait of London with a very emotional core to it, depicting the city and its inhabitants, in all of its nastiness but also all of its glory."

The drama shows that Leah and Natalie are living in an area where poverty and wealth are just streets apart – and when they are both brought into contact with two other characters from their old estate, the tensions threaten to reach breaking point.

Nikki Amuka-Bird and Phoebe Fox star in NW, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Children in Need Rocks for Terry
BBC1, 8.30pm
Fearne Cotton and Greg James host a special concert staged at the Royal Albert Hall to honour broadcaster and Children in Need figurehead Terry Wogan, featuring performances by Take That, Ellie Goulding, Olly Murs, Gregory Porter, Michael Ball, Alfie Boe, Rick Astley, Beverley Knight, Alexander Armstrong, the Vamps, Ward Thomas and Shaun Escoffery. There are also appeal films and archive clips of Terry's career, including a chance to relive one of the classic Radio 2 Janet and John Stories.

TUESDAY
Live International Football
ITV, 7.30pm
England v Spain (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the friendly at Wembley Stadium, as Gareth Southgate takes charge of the fourth and final game of his short stint as England manager. Southgate stepped up from his role as Under-21s boss to take the reins of the senior team in the wake of Sam Allardyce's shock departure after just one match, and has been seen by many as an ideal candidate for the job full-time. No decision has yet been taken by the FA, but the former Middlesbrough defender will be keen to impress his superiors with a good performance here against the former world champions.

WEDNESDAY
This Time Next Year
ITV, 8pm
Davina meets up with more people who want to change the course of their life over the space of a year. First up is a16-year-old boy who has been unable to speak for six years after suffering damage to his windpipe. He's made the decision to undergo an operation, but will it help him to regain his voice? The presenter also talks to a father of three who is pledging to shed seven stones in weight, and Kathryn and Chris who are turning to surrogacy after Kathryn was told that a rare disease means she risks losing her sight if she carries their second child.

THURSDAY
DIY SOS: Million Pound Build for Children in Need
BBC1, 8pm
DIY SOS highlights the plight of nation's 250,000 young carers, who look after their parents on a daily basis. Blackpool Carers Trust, which is supported by funding from Children in Need, provides limited out-of-school respite and training activities for some of these carers – but its current centre is bursting at the seams. It has now inherited a bigger, broken-down property, which will require the renovation of a neglected building and a huge overgrown garden – and that's where Nick and the team come in, with help from designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.

Children in Need 2016, Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm

FRIDAY
Children in Need 2016
BBC1, 7.30pm
Tess Daly and Greg James introduce a night of entertainment as the BBC's annual appeal night gets underway, beginning with a performance from the hit West End musical Aladdin and a special children's edition of Would I Lie to You? 8.00 The cast of EastEnders performs a dance medley of 1980s movie classics and a children's choir of over 1,500 members sings in unison across the nation. Plus, an exclusive first look of the Dr Who Christmas special. 8.30 Graham Norton and Ade Adepitan host as a group of children receives a very special surprise from Little Mix. Plus, an Olympic-themed Strictly Come Dancing featuring some of the members of Team GB. 9.00 Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins help Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne in his quest to find Pudsey Bear. 9.30 The final leg of The One Show's amazing rickshaw challenge. Plus, the first winner of The Sir Terry Wogan Fundraiser of Year Award is announced and Craig David is in the studio to perform the official Children in Need single, All We Needed.

Rick Stein's Long Weekends
BBC2, 9pm
The presenter visits the home of New Nordic cuisine – Copenhagen – where he goes foraging for rosehip and learns about the art of pickling buds, bark and flowers. He's cheered to find plenty of traditional favourites, such as the city's famous Smorrebrod open sandwiches on rye bread, delicious poached turbot with cabbage and lemon butter sauce and – of course – the ubiquitous Danish pastry.

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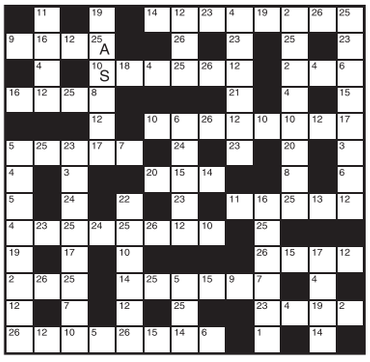
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



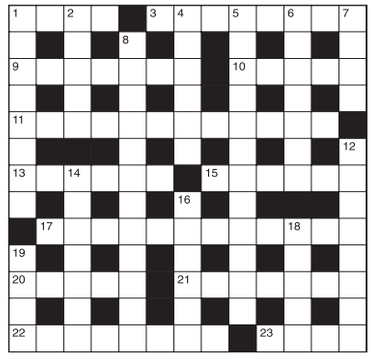
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10 S	23
11	24
12	25 A
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	K	Y	G	V	O	L	H	A	T	R	S	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	W	F	U	P	D	J	Q	B	X	M	E	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. A young animal and a young insect (4)
3. Lock-jointed! (8)
9. So sure I can be in earnest (7)
10. To compel payment is strictly correct (5)
11. This may lead to strife, but Sid returns with a treaty (12)
13. Used for Mosaic inscription to rearrange battle (6)
15. A point to the story is not ethical (6)
17. The country is unattested, in a way (6,6)
20. Neil is upset by a stranger (5)
21. Partly bear a cheerless affliction (7)
22. Presides badly - break up the meeting (8)
23. Deity concealed in this, I suppose (4)

Down

1. Put a later time for staff appointment (8)
2. A capital participant in the Trojan War (5)
4. Used to be deposed (6)
5. Mercurial recorders (12)
6. Painter and composer of oratorios (7)
7. What one must do to provide a levy (4)
8. What the judge may deliver, consisting of many clauses (4,8)
12. Part less damaged when they are medically applied (8)
14. They take part in raids and in scraps (7)
16. They count up the reptiles (6)
18. What must be paid, we hear, for carpet fasteners (5)
19. Measure a paved area (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Imitate (4)
3. Estimated (8)
9. Incite (7)
10. Taut (5)
11. One by one (12)
13. Numberless (6)
15. Hurry (6)
17. Tory (12)
20. Stroll (5)
21. Hide (7)
22. Salutation (8)
23. Plan (4)

Down

1. Carping (8)
2. Arrogant (5)
4. Stable (6)
5. Excessive spending (12)
6. Vest (7)
7. Profound (4)
8. Recovering (12)
12. Obscene (8)
14. Bother (7)
16. Jail (6)
18. Perfect (5)
19. Band (4)

Sudoku

		4			3			6
	3	1			5		4	7
	7			4		3		
			4					2
	1	5	7		9	8	3	
6					2			
	8	2		1			6	
1			8		6	4	9	
			5			1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	8	4	1	5	2	7	9
9	5	7	2	3	8	4	6	1
2	4	1	9	7	6	3	8	5
6	3	5	1	9	4	7	2	8
1	9	2	8	6	7	5	3	4
7	8	4	5	2	3	9	1	6
8	1	3	7	5	9	6	4	2
4	7	9	6	8	2	1	5	3
5	2	6	3	4	1	8	9	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Seraphs; 7 Lists; 9 Scans; 10 Knights; 12 Charioteers; 14 Persistence; 18 Willing; 19 Enter; 21 Feted; 22 Infancy. Down: 1 React; 2 Launch; 3 The; 4 Single; 5 Stature; 8 Unmoved; 11 Present; 13 Desired; 15 Solder; 16 Canvas; 17 Fence; 20 End. QUICK - Across: 6 Macabre; 7 Allow; 9 Misty; 10 Unmanly; 12 Fraudulence; 14 Fashionable; 18 Stunted; 19 Avoid; 21 Impel; 22 Contact. Down: 1 Rapid; 2 Matter; 3 Try; 4 Please; 5 Collect; 8 Inhuman; 11 Run over; 13 Pastime; 15 Hinder; 16 Levity; 17 Pinch; 20 Row.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who was born Agnes Bojaxhiu in 1910?
2. How is soya bean curd also known?
3. What is the largest lake in Italy?
4. With which drink is Armagnac associated?
5. Which is the largest desert?
6. For what, in America, is the Grand Old Party a popular name?
7. From what fruit is the alcoholic drink perry made?
8. What is the common name of the annual plant Lycopersicon esculentum?
9. Which English explorer discovered the magnetic North Pole in 1831?
10. In which city did the Peterloo massacre take place?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Harold Wilson; 2 Hamster; 3 Death Valley; 4 Parry; 5 War; 6 Pacific; 7 Fayed brothers; 8 Kingfisher; 9 Henry IV; 10 Syria.

Niner: RECOUPING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

9574699 gives an Austrian composer,
37283 gives a Norwegian composer,
32312 gives an Italian singer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

GET A REAL RESPONSE BY ADVERTISING IN THIS SPACE

CHRONICLE

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A fishy story – two sea bass served with root vegetables and mash

Rustic restaurant – inside is authentic and relaxed

Taste of Italy – Cafe Casita Ristorante Italiano

Traditional taste – homemade tiramisu

It's no secret now, this Italian restaurant was just the job

ITALIAN has always been a personal preference so when our six-year wedding anniversary came up we decided it would be the perfect excuse to sample one of the local eateries.

By James Driver-Fisher

There is just something about the food, wine and atmosphere that seems to tick all the boxes for such occasions.

Our choice was Cafe Casita, in Clarence Street, Dudley, which we had previously been assured had a lovely relaxed and rustic feel about it.

It was exactly what we had hoped for with the set up being not too posh but fancy enough to enjoy a special meal.

Under the management of Anna and Erminio who have a passion for creating a memorable experience, the restaurant specialises in seafood – particularly dover sole, salmon, monkfish, seabass and lemon sole – which again ticked all the boxes for us.

Without trying to sound too set in my ways, the first thing my eyes are always drawn to for a main is some sort of seafood pasta but of course there were drinks, nibbles and starters to sort out first.

After much deliberation Kelly opted for fungi in crosta, mushrooms wrapped in filo pastry topped with a light creamy infusion of bacon, mushrooms and mozzarella.

My choice was salsiccia picante, spicy Italian sausage oven-baked with a combination of peppers, onions and tomatoes. The sauce for the salsiccia picante was rich, thick and bursting with tomato and garlic.

Kelly's starter was probably the polar opposite because, still packed full of flavour, it was a much lighter option and really very tasty. Perhaps one of the nicest things about the whole evening was at no point did we feel rushed.

Choosing a meal was a seriously hard task because of the options available but a decision had to be made and Kelly's eyes were immediately drawn to the chef's specials, the sea bass in particular, which came with a sauce, root vegetables and a bed of mash potatoes.

Crispy

The sea bass was cooked very nicely and remained slightly crispy on the outside.

I went with what I knew I'd love and ordered the tagliolini gameroni, Italy's finest noodles, according to the menu, tossed in king prawns, garlic and cherry tomatoes, served in a creamy sauce with a touch of chilli.

Having tried numerous fish-based dishes in restaurants I can safely say the tagliolini gameroni was up there with the best.Having had starters, a few side dishes and a main meant there was no room for a sweet course, so we kindly passed on the dessert menu although the tiramisu did look tempting.

The café-style décor of the venue really does add to the experience because, although it's nothing like your run-of-mill greasy spoon, the seating, layout and general feel of the restaurant is designed to make diners feel at home.

Café Casita classes itself as one of the Black Country's best kept secrets within the dining scene.

The restaurant was packed while we were there and everyone seemed to be enjoying the atmosphere and food as much as we were – so perhaps it won't be a best kept secret for much longer.

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Special Meal
Starter - Main Dish with Rice or Naan £9.50pp
To finish Barfi / Fritter or Coffee
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Christmas Day Dinner Buffet
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Starters / Mains / Boiled Rice, Pilau Rice, Naan Bread
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Ready for Christmas treat

A Christmas day dinner buffet is on offer this year at the famous Dilshad Balti in Oldwinsford. The restaurant is running three sittings from 3pm, but booking as soon as possible is recommended as spaces will go fast.

Having won numerous awards and competitions over the years, the Dilshad prides itself on quality food at competitive prices.

With a takeaway service available, you don't have to go far to experience the traditional cuisine, with free delivery service available (four mile radius/orders over £9.50)

The Dilshad Balti restaurant has a full capacity of 140 and they cater for private functions as they have a separate room on offer. As the restaurant is un-licensed customers are welcome to bring their own alcohol.

Mr Miah is a very proud business man has he has been running the Dilshad Balti for more than 30 years, seeing regular customers children become customers themselves.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

A stunning and modern detached family home

Pleasantly situated in a highly sought after village address, 66a Foundary Road, Wall Heath, Dudley, is a stunning and substantial modern four-bedroomed detached family house.

Having impressively spacious, luxury double glazed and centrally heated accommodation over three floors, enhanced by a large full width conservatory extension and two en-suite shower rooms, it is for sale through Taylors at £299,950 with no chain. It is well placed for the village shops and commuter links.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Viewing is highly recommended for the pleasant setting and superb layout to be fully appreciated."

In more detail the reception hall has stairs off, an under-stairs store cupboard, spotlights and tiled flooring and there is a ground floor WC.

The lounge has a living flame-style gas fire with a marble-style feature fireplace surround, double doors with windows either side to the conservatory and further glazed double doors opening to a separate formal dining room.

Beautifully appointed, the kitchen has light-wood style units with black granite working surfaces and a door to the large full width conservatory extension.

This has mirrored windows tot he right hand side, tiled flooring and French-style doors to the rear garden. On the first floor landing is stairs leading up to the second floor.

Bedroom one has open views to the rear and an en-suite shower room with a corner shower cubicle with a curved screen door, contemporary glass wash basin and a push button flush WC and full height wall tiling and floor tiling and a Velux roof window.

Bedroom three has a window to the front, as does bedroom four. The house bathroom has a classic white suite including a spa bath. Off the second floor is bedroom two with two Velux roof windows, a store cupboard and a door to an en-suite with a Velux window. Outside the property is set back from the road beyond a good sized driveway and a garage. A gate leads to the rear garden with a paved patio and large lawn and shed.

WALL HEATH £299,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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EMAIL: kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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3 floors
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Spacious

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www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk

Hoo Road, Kidderminster DY10 1LT

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Sat 12 Nov – 2pm till 3pm
Weds 16 Nov – 11am till 12 noon

A 3-bedroom traditional semi detached house requiring complete refurbishment but having huge potential and also ideal scope for substantial extension subject to requisite Consents, given over 3m/10ft of side amenity hand-in-glove with large west facing rear gardens. Vacant possession upon completion. EPC G

STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060
Offered for sale by Public Auction subject to prior sale, special conditions & reserve.

Guide Price £80,000 - £110,000

Ruskin Avenue, Kidderminster DY10 3XQ

A three bedroom detached family home located in a sought after position within the popular and established Offmore Farm estate. Reception Porch. Lounge. Dining Room. Kitchen. Utility. 3 Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Garage. Driveway. Fore and rear Gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E

KIDDERMINSTER OFFICE 01562 822244
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Guide Price £125,000 - £135,000

London Road, Worcester WR5 2DJ

City Centre freehold currently let on Assured Shorthold Tenancy at £475 pcm - a one-bedroom 3-storey end terraced house in the heart of historic Worcester offering a wealth of shopping, leisure and employment opportunities! There is also a shared rear garden.
Ideal investment property and a rare opportunity in this price bracket. EPC E

STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060
Offered for sale by Public Auction subject to prior sale, special conditions & reserve.

Guide Price £80,000 - £90,000

Stourbridge Road, Kidderminster DY10 2QE

To be sold for the first time in almost 70 years! - a 3-bedroom 1930's detached house requiring repair and refurbishment but having immense further potential, together with good sized south-east facing rear gardens. Reception hall, bay fronted living room, kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom.
NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC F

STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060
Offered for sale by Public Auction subject to prior sale, special conditions & reserve.

Guide Price £120,000 - £140,000

Charlton Lane, Hartlebury DY11 7SD

Un-polished gem" for sale under the hammer to close an Estate! - a captivating non-listed stone faced detached country residence of real distinction with BIG potential set some 100ft back from the lane-side and sitting on ABOUT 3.4 ACRES of good level grounds with two entrances comprising gardens, a large 2 acre paddock to the west, and an assortment of agricultural barns to the east. Here is the perfect chance for your very own "grand design" in a prime rural setting surrounded by open Greenbelt countryside and yet with swift access to Worcester and the M5. EPC E

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Guide Price £400,000 - £500,000

Bewdley Road, Stourport DY13 8YD

For sale to close an Estate and available for the first time in 37 years! - a 3 bedroom semi detached house on a large plot with very broad south west facing rear gardens and good potential for extension subject to requisite Consents. Reception hall with built-in pantry, bathroom, through living room, dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms, garage, vacant possession upon completion. EPC E

STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060
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Guide Price £125,000 - £135,000

Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8PB

End terraced three bedroomed family home situated in a semi rural location close to the town centre and local amenities. Reception hall. Lounge. Kitchen. Utility. Three bedrooms. Bathroom. Separate toilet. Electric heating. Fore and rear gardens. No parking.
CASH BUYERS ONLY

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Guide Price £95,000 - £105,000

Lea Street, Kidderminster DY10 1SW

A Victorian mid terraced house requiring refurbishment - formerly also an old shop albeit trading ceased some 30 years ago! Former retail area, cellar, living room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 2 bedrooms plus attic room, good sized level rear garden being fully private in that, there is no right of way across for neighbouring properties. EPC G

STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060
Offered for sale by Public Auction subject to prior sale, special conditions & reserve.

Guide Price £65,000 - £85,000

Lea Street, Kidderminster DY10 1SW

Ideal 'turn key' investment, now with vacant possession but previously long term let - a spacious and very well maintained Victorian mid terraced house arranged over three floors in an ultra-convenient location only half a mile from ton centre itself and just seconds from the train station plus plentiful amenities along neighbouring Comberton Hill. EPC D

STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060
Offered for sale by Public Auction subject to prior sale, special conditions & reserve.

Guide Price £90,000 - £110,000

St. Johns Street, Bridgnorth WV15 6AG

A Grade II Listed ground floor commercial retail unit with refurbished 2 bedroom flat over the first and second floors together with rear garden.

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Offered for sale by Public Auction subject to prior sale, special conditions & reserve.

Guide Price £140,000 - £150,000

Land at Charlton Lane, Hartlebury Y11 7SD

A valuable parcel of good open agricultural land, fronting Charlton Lane - also having a gate to it - extending to about 11.5 acres and comprising three fields of grassland used for growing hay and the grazing of private horses.
Rare opportunity.

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Guide Price £75,000

31 Worcester St. Kidderminster Worcs DY10 1EQ Tel: **01562 822244**
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Major revisions for Skoda's best-seller

Škoda has made major revisions to its best-selling model, the Octavia. Available early 2017 in the UK, the model features a newly designed front and rear section, state-of-the-art driver assistance systems, infotainment and connectivity, as well as additional new equipment which further enhance the Octavia's appeal. The compact model is available in hatch and estate form.

"The Škoda Octavia has always been in a class of its own in the compact segment," says Škoda CEO Bernhard Maier. "As the 'heart of the brand', the Octavia has decisively shaped Škoda's outstanding development from the very start, and has made the company what it is today: an internationally successful automotive manufacturer with a presence in more than 100 markets worldwide. With the now extensively revised Škoda Octavia, we are keen to continue this development sustainably."

The Octavia is the Czech automaker's best-selling model. At the upper end of its segment, Škoda's bestseller has set new standards in terms of space, functionality, safety and comfort technology, design and value for money. In the 20 years since the 1996 reintroduction of the Octavia, five million customers from all over the world have opted for an Octavia.

The lines have been further streamlined, especially at the front. The two adjacent headlights form the dual face with a crystalline look and feature full-LED technology. The brand logo has gained even more presence, with the front of the car featuring a more powerful and wider appearance.

The space available in the revised Škoda Octavia remains one of the largest in its class. Both the saloon and estate offer 1,782 millimetres of interior space and 73 millimetres of legroom in the rear. Their luggage compartments measure 590 and 610 litres, respectively; with folded rear seat backrests up to 1,580 and 1,740 litres respectively. There is an optional electric tailgate available for Octavia estate.

The front has a more powerful and wider appearance

Luggage in the estate is 1,740 litres with rear seats down

Lines have been further streamlined, especially at the front

The revision has brought new infotainment systems. All three systems now have capacitive displays in glass design that respond to light touch. Octavia is also moving ahead with assistance systems. If the car is used as a towing vehicle, the trailer assistant will take over the steering when the vehicle is slowly reversing. Predictive pedestrian protection complements Front Assist. In addition, the parking assistant has been further optimised.

Thanks to the rear radar, Blind Spot Detection and Rear Traffic Alert ensure safe lane changes and also help while reversing out of a parking space. The rear-view camera displays the car's immediate surroundings via the on-board monitor.

New features have been added to the 'Simply Clever' solutions: a customisable key, allowing multiple users to save their own vehicle settings, as well as a heated steering wheel, bottle holders which facilitate the opening of bottles, and the estate version features a removable torch in the boot.

The two TSI and two TDI engines available from launch in the UK are: 1.0 TSI 115PS, 1.4 TSI 150PS, 1.6 TDI 115PS and 2.0 TDI 150PS. For almost all engines in the revised Škoda Octavia, a DSG transmission with six or seven gears is available in addition to manual transmission.

The revised saloon and estate version will be available in the first markets from the end of the year. Deliveries will begin in early 2017.

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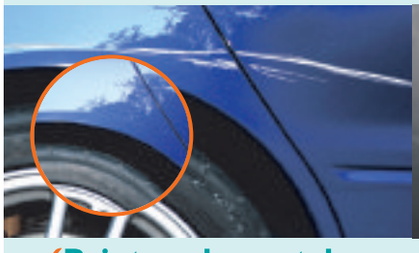

✓Paintwork scratches

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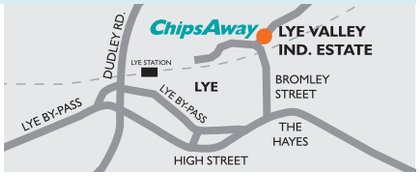

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Vauxhall reveals new model offensive in 'five-star' year

Vauxhall is set for a ground-breaking 2017, with a total of five major product launches that will add further variety to its range – already one of the largest in the UK – while at the same time entering new market segments.

Crucially, as well as the introduction of range-building derivatives, Vauxhall will bolster its credentials by offering a compelling alternative to 'premium' models in the D-sector with the all new Insignia Grand Sport, while also growing volume still further in the SUV/crossover class with not one, but two new models.

Portfolio

"2017 will be a landmark year for Vauxhall," said Rory Harvey, chairman and managing director.

"Our portfolio will grow, for sure, but it's the quality and innovation which underpins our new products that will surprise customers.

"The Insignia Grand Sport will force buyers to reassess how they perceive our brand, and later in the year our two crossover offerings will bring Vauxhall to, in many cases, completely new sets of buyers."

Vauxhall's Five Stars of 2017:

1. The new Insignia Grand Sport will be the new flagship product of Vauxhall's range.
Despite being a large and practical five-door hatchback, it will have a coupe-like silhouette, huge driver appeal and a class-leading all-wheel-drive system.
Existing model still leads the mainstream D-sector in the UK, but Grand Sport is set to challenge premium rivals.

Ground-breaking 2017 year ahead for the Griffin badge

2. Hot on its heels will be the new Insignia Sports Tourer, taking many of its design cues from the 2013's visionary Monza Concept.
Compared with the existing model, interior space has increased significantly, especially in the rear cabin and luggage area, but not at the expense of its design, which is lithe and rakish.

3.Completing the new Insignia range next year will be a Country Tourer model, complete with all-wheel-drive as standard and off-road looks. A genuine multi-task vehicle.

4. Vauxhall's recently launched Mokka X will be joined by the new Crossland X at the start of next year.
The exciting crossover will appeal to buyers with families who demand agility and convenience in urban driving, but with enough comfort and performance to cover long distances at the drop of a hat.

5. Completing Vauxhall's SUV/crossover family in 2017 will be a new C-segment crossover, similar in size to the Astra and Zafira Tourer, and with an especially sporty design.

Classified Ads

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funeral directors

WOMBOURNE FUNERAL SERVICES
Funeral Directors
Funerals from £1,350 plus Disbursments
Pre-paid plans. 24hr call-out
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wombournefuneralservices.co.uk

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Wombourne Funeral Services.

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www.nedowning.co.uk

religious notices

christadelphian

PARABLES OF JESUS The sower, November 13, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford. Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

lost & found

LOST, MALE CAT
Mostly white with two black patches on top of head.
Microchipped.
Missing since October 27, 2016 from WV14 area Coseley.
07857 223060.

MISSING SMOKEY
Since October 19, 2 year old grey tabby cat, Lower Penn area, microchipped.
Any info please contact Laura on 07971569688,

1 Family

elderly & disabled

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday 13th November
Next Sale: 27th November
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
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Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

holidays

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for Sale on 5* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & Pet friendly. 20 acres walking woodland £24.995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326

what's on

markets

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701 All hard standing

3 Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

ROYAL ALBERT Old Country Roses (English), large collection tableware. For details 01902 798468 Coven.

furniture

Frank Bosworth LIQUIDATION SALE
£685,000 at a fraction of RRP
Chelsea Was £1199 NOW £599
Sally Was £89 NOW £49
Wentworth Was £1599 NOW £899
Milan Was £369 NOW £199
BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF.
OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
MON-SAT 10-6PM SUN 10-4PM

CHESTERFIELD
3 seater and 2 seater, colour Oxblood.
As new, real top leather, in the box, never been used, must sell less than half the price.
£1000. can deliver.
Mobile 07342 746919

FOUR TALL BACK DARK BROWN Real leather dining chairs, excellent condition £90. 07790 689680.

THREE PIECE suite, G-plan, very good condition, cost £2,500, as new, sell £550. 01384 833839 or 07711 570870.

TWO SINGLE Drawer divan beds, nearly new plus all matting & bedding, £90 both. 07752 461025.

household appliances

BUILT IN Electric oven and gas hob £120 can seperate. 07946 327732.

ELECTRIC COOKER Double oven, ceramic hob, Zanussi, also gas cooker £70. 07946 327732.

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent condition. £85. Can deliver. 07932 781179.

items for sale

AS NEW Calor gas portable fire, Superwarm including accessories. £75 ono.Never used. Must collect. 01902 495584.

CAR PORT FOR SALE, with new glass March 2016, good condition, must dismantle, Gornal area. Offers. 01902 674684.

FULLY FURNISHED dolls houses for sale, including stands and accessories, (not small childrens toys). For details 07510 167182.

STAMPS GIBBONS Price £5,000. Mainly blocks, mint F.D.C.S. booklets, cards £2,200 ovno. Bargain 07765 081419 pm only.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Scrap Gold Jewellery. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

COINS, MEDALS, BANK NOTES Wanted by private collector. Telephone 01902 676540.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k+2 computer wanted also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

URGENTLY REQUIRED donations of clothes, household items, toys, games bric-a-brac etc. Please help! free collection. 07551 168310.

photography & camcorders

WANTED OLD CAMERAS Photography/Equipment/Lenses Cash Paid - Can collect. 01934 707474 / 07525 443866

specialists at your service

aerials

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I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract
Steve - AA Digital Aerials
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AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
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07833 738857
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alarms/security

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Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

A BRILLCLEAN for your Carpets & Suite. OAP discounts. Best Prices. Est., 20yrs. Steve 07496 922324.

double glazing

ATS DOUBLE GLAZING UPVC back doors from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. 01922 442720.

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden, 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
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Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART GARAGES / SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

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LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
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removals

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SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

HOME TO HOME REMOVALS
Home to Home Removals
Fast Free Quote
Full/Part House Removals
01384 660620 / 01902 581068

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We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
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STOURBRIDGE REMOVALS reliable, economical, free quote (07802) 876876

roofing

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SEMI RETIRED ROOFER
Ridge Tiles Rebedded, flat roofing, no job to small
40 years experience.
Keith: 07546 158165

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
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t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEAGLE PUPPY, bitch, tri colour, vaccinations, wormed, parents can be seen. 01562 824350.

BORDER COLLIES black and white, tri colours, 12 months old. For more information call 01588 676106.

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

THREE STABLES with 2 acres available to rent from Jan 1 onwards. Wombourne area. 01902 897846 / Text 07950 646008.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

CLOSING DOWN, Cards, invitations inc gift paper, plus Christmas cards. Over 2,500 cards. Best offers over £1,100. 07760 445946.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

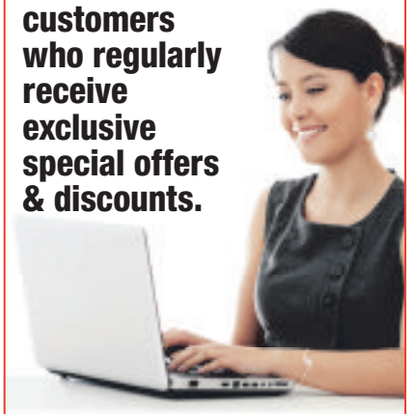
FURNISHED STUDIO FLAT quiet location of Penn, suit working person, off road parking. 01543 504770 after 7pm.

ONE BED ground floor self contained flat, gch, dg, off road parking, no DSS / pets or smoking, Woodsetton. £400pcm. 07932 651294.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk
and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.



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- NO AGENTS FEES
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- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

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FOR YOUR HOUSE
- Legal Fees Paid
- No Fees
- Any Condition
- Guaranteed Offer
- Repossessions Stopped

We can buy your house in 2 days

0800 389 6788

01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

Need to sell your home fast?

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit ...

you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

- ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
- COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
- FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
- FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
- LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

*Terms and Conditions apply

01384 930 978 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

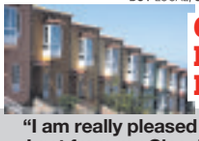
CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191 Brought to you by Express & Star

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191 Brought to you by Express & Star

MORE CATEGORIES MORE CLASSIFICATIONS MORE CHOICE

01902 317878 ClassifiedAds

7 Jobs

engineering

CNC / CONVENTIONAL Machinist - Stourbridge. Full time. Good rates of pay and conditions. Apply by email with CV to timtkeng@aol.com. No agencies.

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

MUST BE SEEN

CITROEN XANTIA 1.9 TD

T reg, silver, 80,000 miles, two owners, all electrics, 11 months MoT, excellent runner, well maintained.

£425 ono.

07908 009210.

GOOD RUNNER

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO

2.0 HDi, MoT until August 2017.

Slight dent on body.

Good runner.

£600 ono.

07982 427522.

FIAT PUNTO 1200, 02 plate, 12 months MoT, new clutch, excellent throughout. £500 ono. Telephone 07717 270097.

FIAT PUNTO Sport, 1.2, 03 reg, MoT July 2017, 52,000 miles, electric windows, good condition. £550 ono. 07956 615584.

BARGAIN

FORD FIESTA 1.2

53 Reg, petrol, silver, PAS, alloys.

Air bags, CL, 11 months MoT.

EW, CD.

£650 o.n.o.

07733 383592.

MUST BE SEEN

FORD FOCUS.

1600, 05 plate, petrol.

Deep red.

MoT till June 2017,

Good condition,

£795.

07757 698959.

BARGAIN

FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE

5Dr.

58 Reg.

Grey.

MoT'd.

FSH.

Second owner.

£1,500.

07454 844447

or

07746 209372

FORD KA

Ideal first car. 2007, 54,500 Miles, Navy blue with white stars on back panel, MOT til Oct 2017.

£550 ono

07495130846

EXCELLENT CONDITION

FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA

2004 plate, 84k, same owner last 4 years,

Blue,

Long MoT.

£1,000 ono.

07913 981460.

BARGAIN

JAGUAR X-TYPE

Grey.

2004.

Full MoT.

£1,295 o.n.o.

07973 282911.

GOOD RUNNER

NISSAN MICRA 1.0 S

2002.

Metallic Green.

Good condition.

Only done 53,000

genuine miles.

£650.

0787 1565243.

LOW MILEAGE

PEUGEOT 106 XL ZEST

Blue.

1999.

MoT to September 2017.

58,000 miles.

£450 o.n.o.

01562 852652.

CONVERTIBLE

PEUGEOT 206 CONVERTIBLE

02 reg, MoT April 2017, good runner,

£395 ono.

07481 521951.

MUST BE SEEN

PEUGEOT 306 ESTATE

Silver, diesel.

MoT till March 2017.

T reg, exceptional condition both engine and body

Been serviced each year from new, over 50mpg.

£450.

07882 937146.

PEUGEOT 407

2007, 102,000 Miles, light blue, abs, electric windows, alarm, long Mot, central locking, pas, diesel, good condition, 50mpg, cam belt recently changed

£995 ono

0121 557 2706

MUST BE SEEN

RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 DYNAMIQUE

Black

MoT

03 plate.

£595.

07913 981460.

BARGAIN

SAAB 900 TURBO SE CONVERTIBLE

1997, good condition, spares or repair

£385.

07982 605805.

TOYOTA AVENSIS 1999, 100k, auto, green, AC, psh, MoT, very good condition, genuine calls only, no traders £750 ono 07492364161

FOR A QUICK SALE

VAUXHALL CORSA SRi

5-dr hatchback, 1800, petrol, 2003, black, MoT till March 2017, alloy wheels, alarmed, high mileage but engine, gearbox, body very good.

Nice looking car and very good drive.

Now reduced £450 ono.

01902 262001 /

07928 679949.

VW GOLF 1.4 16V

2001, 5dr in silver, 76,000 miles, FSH, new cam belt, new coil overs, new brakes, Audi TT alloys, 11 months MoT.

£1,100 ovno.

07814 336980 or

01902 306544.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

VW LUPO

51 plate, MoT'd.

Nice condition.

New cam belt and exhaust.

Service history.

£1000 ono.

01902 755072.

cars over £1500

AUDI TT

1.8, Rare Automatic, leather interior, 06 reg, 69,000 miles, silver, very good condition,

£4,400 ono.

01902 681469. 07971 912638.

BMW 320CSI 2003 Private Plate, Silver, Beautiful car, leather interior fully loaded, telephone, much sought after.£1,695 ono 07779970360

BMW Z4 ROADSTER

Low mileage (69,200).

3.0 petrol, 2004, metallic grey, MoT, fsh, lady owner last 8 years plus, excellent condition, black leather interior, powered seats, alarm, central locking, radio/CD.

£5,625 ono.

Telephone 01384 832293 or 07811 111583.

FIAT 500, 2013, red with white trims, 60,000 miles, full service history, MoT, good condition, air conditioning, £4,500 ono. 01902 241534.

MUST BE SEEN

FORD FIESTA 1.25

64 plate, 12,600 miles,

blue, 3-dr, FSH,

one previous owner.

£7,200 ono

07957 183124.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC

2008, 31,500 miles, Zetec Climate 1.25, abs, electric windows and mirrors, air con, alloys, fsh, metallic, central locking, pas, tinted rear glass.

£2,800 ono.

07885 811762.

IMMACULATE

FORD FOCUS TITANIUM TDCi

6 speed, 5dr, 2012, 2 owners, FSH, 89,000 miles, silver, all extras, full MoT.

Superb value.

£5,495.

07546 779139.

HYUNDAI i 10 COMFORT 1.2

2010, 5 door, black, service history, CD, radio, spare wheel, 4 new tyres, 60k, very good condition, excellent runner.

£2,750 ono.

07827 631290.

LANDROVER FREELANDER

TD4, SE, S/W, 2ltr Diesel, 2004.104K Miles, Silver, 12 months MOT, serviced, very good spec, heated seats, A/C, good condition

£2,295 ono

07740 418668

BARGAIN

MERCEDES BENZ E350 CY AGARDE CDiA

2009 Reg.

Grey Metallic.

101,000 miles. FS.H.

MoT September 2017.

Sat Nav. Leather Seats.

Cruise control. New Tyres.

Genuine reason for sale.

£9,200 ono.

07803 909920.

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES ML320 CDI SE AUTO ESTATE

09 plate, 7G triptronic, black, 128k, FSH, MoT, all electric, sat Nav, CD, DVD, must be seen.

£10,995 ono.

Part ex possible.

07979 784585.

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE

54 reg, 72,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys,

Absolutely pristine.

£9,999.

07836 204450 or 07545 601552.

deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk

NISSAN NOTE 1.6 ACENTA

5 door, lady driver. Economicle, reliable, 100,000 miles.

£1,495.

01902 747180.

07774 898966.

SUPERB CONDITION

PEUGEOT 2008 SUV FELINE CALMA E HDi 1.6

2014, Sat Nav, parking sensors, cruise, electric roof, dual climate, fsh, factory Warranty, immaculate.

£9,295 ono.

Telephone 07715 021455.

PEUGEOT 308SE

Automatic, 5-dr hatchback.

Grey, 9 months MoT.

Service record, 2008.

Excellent condition.

£2,950 ono.

07788 453337.

TOYOTA COROLLA

2005, 54,930 Miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, air con, metallic paint, central locking, pas, Radio/cd player Toyota Service History

£1,850

07870 611402

TOYOTA PREVIA DIESEL 2.0

06 reg, MoT four months, alloy wheels, silver, good tyres, good condition, 160,000 miles, PAS, navigation, clean car.

£2,350

07424 542999.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2

2012, 29,100 miles, black, alloys, aircon, parking sensors, bluetooth, MoT, FSH, stereo, electric windows, genuine reason for sale.

£4,395 ono

07948 533707.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL CORSA SXi

1,2. Petrol. 5 door.

2012. 58,000 miles.

Met Grey.

CD. E/W. E/M. A/C. FSH.

Cruise control. PAS.

Alloys. Factory tints.

RCL. HPi clear.

£3,999.

07956 882868.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

Homer's

10 Hours £125! Four Hours £40! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered

ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10

07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

PEUGEOT TWEET 125 RS SCOOTER

White, November 2012, 5,400 miles, MoT November 2017, excellent condition. Topbox and security chain included.

£900.

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The u-16 girls were national finalists in April this year

Louie Morris and Reece Jecketts

The u-18s when they became National Outdoor Champions in 2011.

The club's community development officer Jude Hitchens

Lazy days over as club looks to bounce back

CANNOCK Hockey Club have made a series of appointments to lead them back to the top after admitting they got 'lazy'.

Alex Hill has taken over as club captain from Tom Widdowson after the appointment of Gary Stacey as head coach of the men's first-team. The previous National League champions are looking to bounce back from relegation after 27 years in the top division.

Hill, who joined the club as a 12-year-old in 2003, previously coached in the junior section from the Under-11s to the Under-18s.

The club has also announced the appointment of two internationals supporting their under-16 and under-18 squads.

Louie Morris, aged 19, who has played for England under-18s, will continue to lead the under-16s while Callum Stacey, also 19, who has played Wales under-18s last year and is now in the senior squad, will take over the under-18s.

Complacent

Stacey, the son of head coach Gary, is back in the first-team squad after spending a year at National League side Olton and West Warwick gaining valuable experience.

In addition, Jude Hitchens has been appointed as the club's new community club development officer.

Hill admits the club's previous successes made them complacent but says there is a real determination to turn things around.

"Cannock Hockey Club has a fantastic history, having been champions of the National League and leading competitors across junior age group competitions for many years," he said.

"Sadly in recent years people have sat on this past success. We've been lazy. Our junior section needs rebuilding and our club is in need of real inspiration.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Nash

"Losing our place in the national premier after 27 years last season was horrible for all that care about Cannock."

"The current membership, including the first team and juniors, must create its own history and this time create a legacy that will last for decades.

"Losing our place in the national premier after 27 years last season was horrible for all that care about Cannock.

"However, it has given us time to reflect, and we have a new ethos at Cannock this year which is 'every member matters'.

"We want to be successful at first-team level but we want everyone at our club to feel cared for," he added.

"The appointment of Gary and now Jude will be crucial if we are to succeed with this.

"They both know the club inside out and most importantly they care about our club.

"I'm so excited about this season, I think it will be a real turning point in our future."

As regards his new role, Hill said: "My job is to oversee selection, review and develop the coaching team, support parents and help improve hockey across the club with the support of the newly-appointed coaches."

The new ethos is reflected by Cannock boasting training sessions suitable for all levels from ages of eight to 80.

Hitchens, who has played for Cannock Ladies for three decades, will take responsibility of developing the membership and promoting the sport in the community.

This will include developing links with both primary and secondary schools as well as launching a new back-2-hockey scheme. Cannock already has a satellite club set-up at Erasmus Darwin School in Chasetown and will look to set up competitions between local schools at their Chase Park base.

"I'm so happy to be playing such a key role at the club I love," said Hitchens.

"Cannock is the best hockey club in the Midlands, with its facilities, quality of its provision and success on the pitch.

"I can't wait to get started and spread the Cannock message."

Merging

The club also welcomes Chris Beck, who will working on social media coverage across all levels of the club.

Meanwhile, Cannock hockey club's junior section is merging with the ladies section for all members under 14.

This will mean all under-14s will train on the same evening and will also allow them to share resources and expertise.

Hill will oversee the development of both the players and coaches at under-16s and under-18s levels, creating a clearer pathway to Stacey and the first-team squad.

Cannock are seeking nine matchday sponsors as well as a main sponsor to appear on the first-team kit for next season.

Anyone interested should contact joint chairman Ian Gardner via igardner.uk@gmail.com

Cannock Boys under-18s National Indoor Champions 2015

Children as young as under-12 are integrated into the Cannock Hockey Club set up

Put shirt on club bouncing back from complacency

Page 35

Zaber goes for gold in title attempt

MANNY Zaber will have to overcome the worldly wise Josh Baillie to get his hands on his first professional title next weekend. Zaber has been paired with Baillie to contest the vacant British Challenge super featherweight crown.

The two will go toe-to-toe in an eight-rounder at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday November 19, on Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing show titled 'Going For Gold.'

Undefeated Zaber has eight paid victories under his belt without reply, but is still awaiting his first inside-the-distance. The 21-year-old was also nominated for the Best Newcomer award at the British Boxing Board of Control Midlands area's annual awards.

'Pac Man' will come across a game adversary in Baillie who, despite only taking part in seven pro contests, has boxed far and wide.

'The Boss' travelled to Australia for his first three fights, winning two with a debut TKO. Only future national champion Miles Zalewski got the better of him, on points. Baillie then went to China to take on Can Xu, losing narrowly on points.

The 31-year-old was born in Barrow-on-Furness but lives in Tamworth.

Five support contests will support the main event, with Walsall's Martin Gethin and Zach Parker featuring in six-rounders.

Wolverhampton's Josh Burke will be looking to move into position for the vacant Midlands cruiserweight title in a four rounder against Aaron Green.

Chasetown's Luke Jones is targeting a hat-trick of pro wins with his first Town Hall appearance. West Bromwich's Thomas Loach is waiting to be paired for his second outing.

Tickets are £30 and £60 ringside, on sale on 0845 111 2900.

'Yozza' has Wade to face on darts Grand Slam debut

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes will have PDC heavyweights James Wade and Dave Chisnall in his group for the Grand Slam of Darts. Hughes is the only Black Country player involved when the eight-day tournament begins at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday afternoon. James Wilson completes the group.

Holder, PDC No 1 Michael van Gerwen was drawn in Group A with Brendan Dolan, Max Hopp and the BDO's Martin Adams. Six-time winner Phil Taylor is in Group D with Ian White, Darren Webster and the BDO's Darryl Fitton. Raymond van Barneveld, Mensur Suljovic, Nathan Aspinall and the BDO's Danny Noppert are in Group F.

Reigning BDO world champion Scott Waites, is in Group B with Robert Thornton, Gerwyn Price and Dmitri van den Burgh. PDC world champ Gary Anderson makes up Group E with Alan Norris, Nathan Derry and Glen Durrant.

Peter Wright will play Simon Whitlock, Ted Evitts and the BDO's Jeff Smith in Group C. Group H comprises Adrian Lewis, Benito van de Pas, Chris Dobey and the BDO's Scott Mitchell.

Summers sets sights on next bout

Boxing

TIPTON'S Ricky Summers returned to action in style with a TKO win after exactly seven months out and already has his next ring date.

Summers headlined the last time professional boxing was staged at the Venue in Dudley on March 4 and again took top billing under the same lights last weekend, *writes Craig Birch*.

'Digger' blew away the rust with a third round stoppage of Chris Dixon, who still had one minute and five seconds left to last of the session.

The unbeaten light heavyweight kept up his flawless record of 12 wins from 12, scoring his fifth inside-the-distance. He will now prepare to fight again on December 4. PJ Promotions are putting on their next show at the Venue, a 'Crunchtime at Lunchtime' Sunday afternoon show. Summers is likely to take on Kelvin Young in another six-rounder.

Netherton's Les Byfield, Rowley Regis' Tyler Denny and Birmingham's Kane Baker are all set to feature after winning on Friday night, as will Lichfield's Brad Foster.

Byfield eased to a four-round points landslide over Ricky Leach, who had little time to warm up after arriving late due to traffic on the motorway.

Denny was elated after snapping a run of two draws in a row at middleweight. He had his hand raised, at last, after beating Robert Studzinski.

Baker, from Bartley Green, took on the most experienced active professional in the country, Kristian Laight, competing in his 252nd paid contest.

Fight of the night went to Telford's Tony Jones, with manager Kellie Maloney looking on, as he saw off Ross Jameson at super lightweight.

CJ Challenger, 22, opened the show with the promising welterweight from Leicester defeating Czech Michal Voyska emphatically on points.

SCARR'S GOAL EARNS REPLAY

Whitehawk 1 Stourbridge 1

STOURBRIDGE could welcome League One Northampton Town to Amblecote should the Glassboys negotiate their FA Cup first round replay.

The Glassboys secured the rematch against the National South side – but not before surviving the spectre of a ghost goal in Brighton.

With the clock ticking down on a pulsating finish at the Enclosed Ground, substitute Javier Favarel let rip with a rocket from the right corner of the box just as referee Robert Whitton blew the final whistle.

Replays proved the man in the middle had started to signal the end of the match as the ball dropped for Favarel but Whitehawk surrounded Whitton when he ruled out the strike. Home goalkeeper Ross Flitney was sent off for his protestations and Stour lived to fight another day.

The visitors started well against their higher-ranked opponents with Luke Benbow shooting wide during the opening exchanges.

Veteran

But Stour's strong work kicking up Whitehawk's significant slope was undone on 12 minutes when veteran midfielder Glen Southam pinched possession from Junior Smikle on the corner of the box and sent a dipping drive over Matt Gould via the underside of the crossbar.

Undeterred, Gary Hackett's men kept plugging away with Benbow at the centre of most of his side's opportunities.

Stour were on the front foot after the restart with Dan Scarr's effort gathered by Flitney following a goalmouth scramble.

But Scarr did not have to wait long to get off the mark, firing into the ground and inside Flitney's far post after Chris Lait's centre had been headed as far as the edge of the box.

Stour host the replay on Monday.

Following the postponement of last Saturday's clash with Spennymoor, who were also in FA Cup action, Glassboys travel to the north east for the rearranged game on Saturday. Both were facing a blank fixture after being eliminated from the FA Trophy.

Dan Scarr puts Stourbridge level during the FA Cup first round at Whitehawk

Kaiser Chiefs star joins Blizzard on run

THERE was very little on the calendar for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club to get involved in at the weekend.

Many decided to keep their powder dry in anticipation of the cross country season, but there were still opportunities to race if people looked hard enough.

Simon Blizzard looked north towards Yorkshire to take part in the Leeds Abbey Dash, a 10k race on a fast, flat course hailed as one of the best races in the country. And it certainly proved popular with international athletes, Olympians, good standard club runners and a member of the band, Kaiser Chiefs, joining over 10,000 competitors on the start line.

Despite wet conditions Blizzard recorded a time of 39.05 over the 6.2 mile course to finish in 510th position.

Stour dig deep to win with late try

Stourbridge 34 Chester 24

STOUR had to dig deep for victory, finally shaking off their opponents with Joe Heatley's bonus-point try in the dying minutes.

With the game barely a minute in Chester winger Craig Ross crossed unhindered. James Otutaha replied with a short range try. After a successful White penalty, Sam Wilkes crashed over.

Captain Ciaran Moore was yellow carded – followed later by Otutaha – and visitors' No.8 Dave Ford scored a try.

Stour were still shorthanded at the retsart and a Ross try put Chester back in front, but Tom Harrison touched down for Stour, then White scored a long-range penalty.

Lock Ross White gave the visitors took a well-deserved bonus, but Heatley's last-gasp effort sealed the win.

On Saturday Stour travel to the Wirral to take on National 2 North leaders Caldy, 2pm ko.

Tamworth 24 Stourbridge Lions 34

THIS bonus point win maintained Lions place at the top of Midlands 2 West (North).

Six tries would suggest a rampant performance but it proved far more difficult than it should have been.

The first half oepned with a bang as Will Fallows scored two tries in the opening eight minutes, one converted by Ben Trinham, but the Lions stepped off the gas and a converted try and penalty pegged them back to 12-10.

Lions regrouped, with a fine opportunist try and conversion from Ben Trinham, followed by a try from Matt Poole.

Richard Pennock and Scotty Langdon added tries, but at 34-10 Stour allowed Tamworth back in with two late tries after Cass Brooks had been carded.

Lions play host Silhillians in the RFU Intermediate Cup on Saturday.

Anderson spot-on in victory for Yeltz

Halesowen Town 1 Coalville Town 0

HALESOWEN claimed a hard fought victory through Kaiman Anderson's early penalty.

The Yeltz started brightly with Anderson and Lee Chilton both denied by fine early saves from Coalville goalkeeper Matthew Coton. But leading striker Anderson stepped up to hit the winner from the penalty spot after being brought down by Kyle Bryant in the ninth minute.

Substitute Danny Bragoli almost doubled Halesowen's lead with three minutes remaining, only for Lee Torr to race back and clear off the line.

★★★

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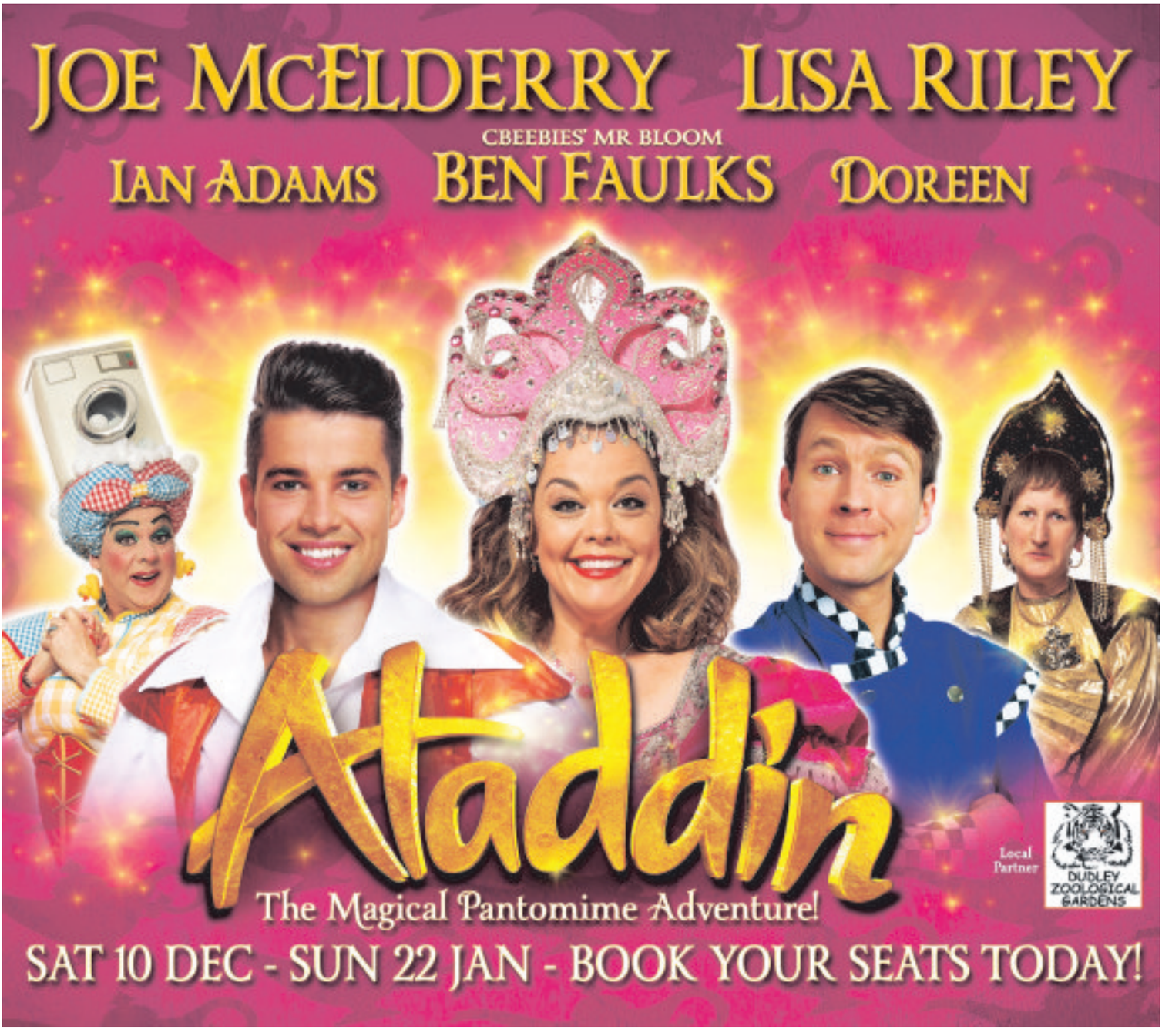

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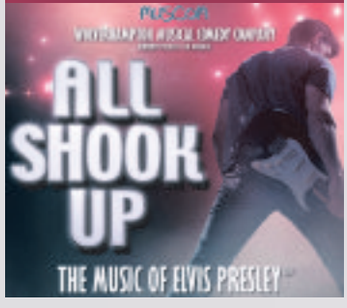
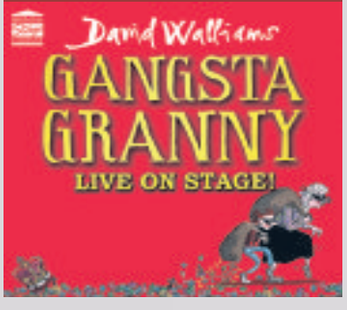
MUSCOM PRESENT
ALL SHOOK UP



WED 22 – SUN 26 MAR
DAVID WALLIAMS
GANGSTA GRANNY
LIVE ON STAGE!



SAT 1 APR
THE GRAND THEATRE'S GREAT GATSBY NIGHT

MON 3 – SAT 8 APR
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

SUN 9 APR
PASHA KOVALEV
LET'S DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE

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YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AT **WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE**

WINTER 2016 INTO SUMMER 2017

TUE 25 – SAT 29 APR

WBOS PRESENT
ROCK OF AGES

SUN 30 APR

THE SOLID SILVER 60s SHOW

TUE 2 – SAT 6 MAY

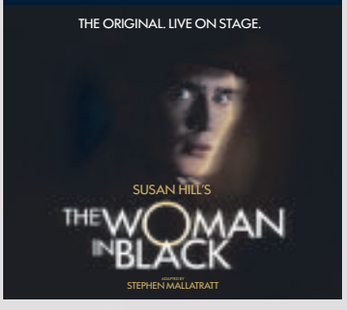
THE VERDICT

SAT 20 MAY

AN EVENING WITH BOYCOTT & AGGERS

MON 22 – SAT 27 MAY

THE WOMAN IN BLACK



TUES 30 – WED 31 MAY

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS

WED 31 MAY

GOLDILOCKS & THE THREE BEARS

TUE 6 – SAT 10 JUNE

CHILDREN'S TOURING PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS
RUNNING WILD

THU 22 – SAT 24 JUN

ALL OR NOTHING

TUE 27 JUN – SAT 1 JUL

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

MON 3 – SAT 8 JULY

RUTH RENDELL'S A JUDGEMENT IN STONE

TUE 15 AUG – SAT 9 SEPT

WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE AND TALKING SCARLET PRESENT

TUE 3 – SAT 7 OCT

THE WEDDING SINGER

WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE

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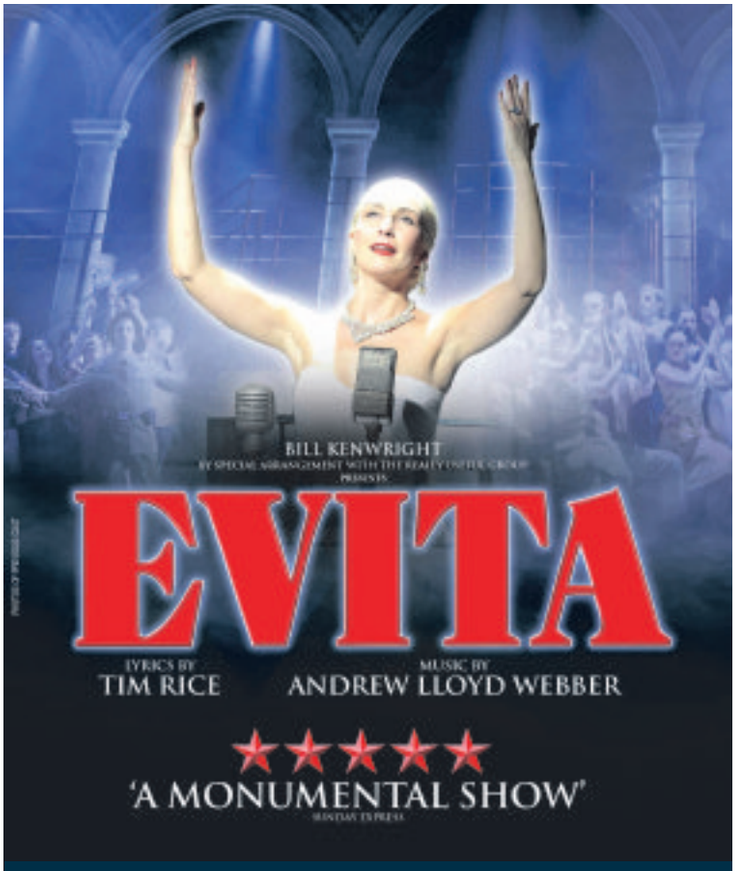
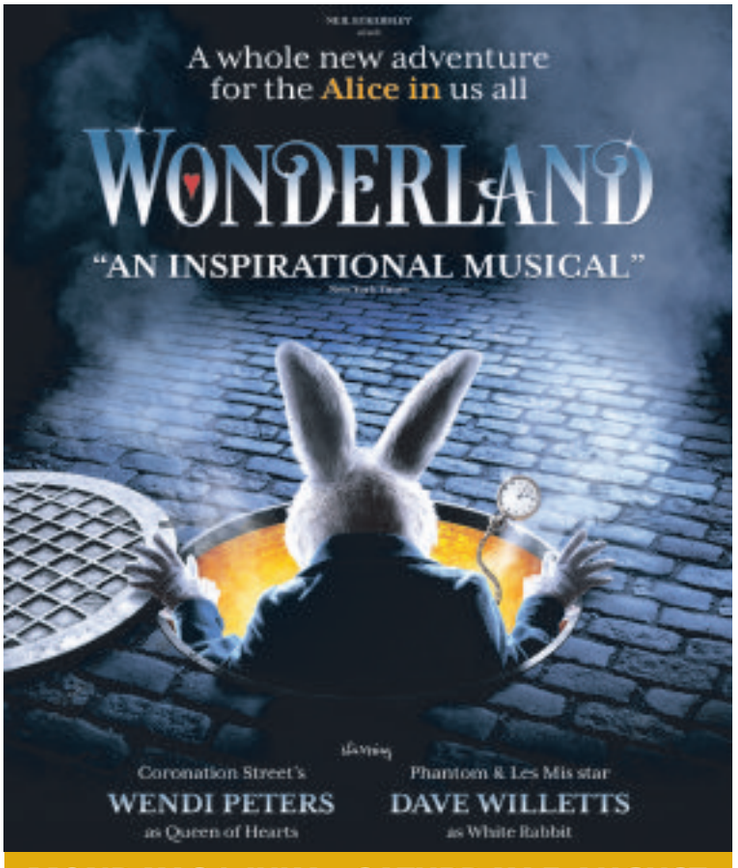
TUESDAY 18 – SATURDAY 22 APRIL



TUESDAY 9 – SATURDAY 13 MAY

MONDAY 24 – SATURDAY 29 JULY



MONDAY 31 JULY – SATURDAY 5 AUGUST